CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FORD AUSTRALIA! *See page 38*

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ISSUE 81
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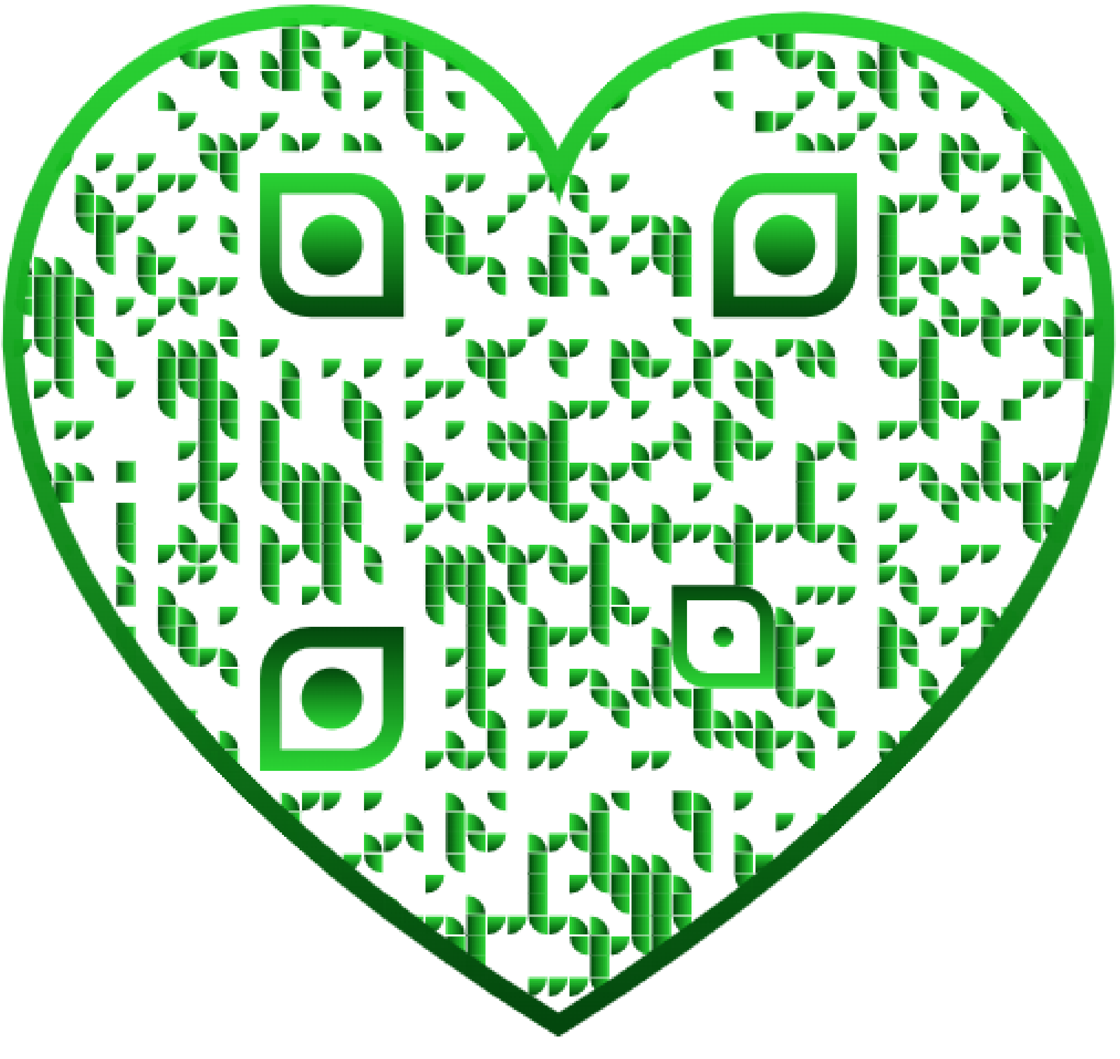

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BURSON AUTO PARTS

As older generations retire, more apprentices than ever are needed to keep the trade sustainable.

Image: Monkey Business/stock.adobe.com

Auto smarts

Taking on the skills shortage

'The world is your oyster' – that's something we've all heard in our lives at one point or another.

In particular, many of us have heard it at the end of our schooling years, when we're trying to figure out our lot in life.

At some point, however, it seems we've overdone the oyster a bit, so to speak.

No more than ever, the options for high school leavers are seemingly endless.

While that may seem great, it can also be overwhelming.

Australia – like many countries – finds itself in the grips of a skills shortage.

In the auto landscape, we see many professions desperate to attract more apprentices.

Does having too many options these days make it harder for skilled trades to keep up?

Personally, the option of undertaking a trade after high school wasn't highly touted by my teachers.

Getting into a good university was presented as the best outcome, while going to a TAFE or becoming an apprentice was downplayed.

I haven't regretted my decision personally, but I've certainly come to appreciate skilled apprenticeships over time.

Many of my fellow school leavers who weren't certain about their initial graduation choices have gone into various trades, and absolutely loved it.

Why then, are trades talked about as a second-class option?

The blue-collar stigma has been something mechanics have battled throughout history, but it seems - now more than ever – the pipeline is running dry.

Industry bodies, manufacturers and government agencies are seeking to solve this issue, and we dive into it in this edition of Australian Car Mechanic.

A lot of it has to do with changing perceptions of auto repair mechanics/technicians to those in high school.

Not to say high schoolers should be force-fed into occupations experiencing shortages, but certainly the idea of going to TAFE should have equal footing to university.

Mechanics are some of the smartest individuals I know, and the profession itself can certainly be rewarding both personally and financially to those who do it well.

The mindset around taking up a trade is slowly changing, thanks to the work many of the organisations featured in this edition are doing.

Hopefully soon we'll see the fruit of their hard work, as more young people scratch their inquisitive itch by becoming a mechanic. ACM

Harry Murtough – Editor

On the cover

Burson Auto Parts has been an established name in the Australian car parc for decades. It's also had an oils range for nigh on 30 years, however Burson has given it a fresh coat of oil per se.

We take a look at Burson's oil range, it's benefits and how it's able to provide ultimate service to Burson's trade customers.

Booking deadlines

AUSTRALIAN CAR MECHANIC

Issue 82 • 2025
Deadline June 18, 2025

Issue 83 • 2025
Deadline Aug 20, 2025

Issue 84 • 2025
Deadline Oct 21, 2025

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+ Tips for future-proofing
+ The future of EVs
+ Eye on the Industry
+ New brake developments
+ State of mechanics industry

Contributors

IAIN CURRY has been a specialist motoring writer and photographer for 15 years, working for a variety of magazines in Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Germany and Sweden. He is former editor of Performance BMW magazine and features writer for GT Porsche magazine, and has been fortunate enough to photograph Formula 1, the Le Mans 24 Hours, World Touring Cars, V8 Supercars and a range of adventure sports.

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BURSON
OIL-071

Premium selection

All about quality with Burson Oil

The Burson Oil range has been a trusted and established part of the Lubricants range for over 30 years. The range has recently undergone a major refresh, and is now being supplied by one of the world's most recognised oil brands.

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Designed
and made
for the trade

Images: Burson.

Burson Auto Parts has been a trusted trade partner of Australian workshop owners for 54 years and the Burson Oil range has been around for over 30 years. Burson understands the demands for mechanics across Australia.

Big-time upgrade

Burson Auto Parts is excited and proud to be in a long term partnership with Fuchs Lubricants Australia.

Burson Auto Parts Category Manager Steve Johnson said this partnership with Fuchs Australia has raised Burson's product offer to the market with the latest specifications and viscosities all made locally in Melbourne, Victoria.

Working with a worldwide organisation like Fuchs gives us access to first to market opportunities going forward.

The Burson Oil branding has undergone a significant visual refresh, featuring a refined new label design that enhances the product's premium market positioning.

Each bottle features a clear label to ensure customers know which oil is right for them.

The bottles feature ergonomic handles and easy-pour necks.

They're also made from recycled materials to reduce their carbon footprint.

While Fuchs Lubricants is German engineered all oils are made here in Melbourne, keeping its tradition of Burson oil made in Australia which is important and something that Burson os immensely proud of.

Made In Australia by a world-leading oil brand in Fuchs not sure Burson can offer the market any better.

Designed to perform

Specification wise, the high quality Burson range is at the forefront of todays' current vehicle and machinery demands.

Steve said, Burson's range covers all of today's modern passenger, SUV/4X4, Light & Heavy Commercial lubricant needs and meets all the industry specifications like LOW SAP's, Diesel Particulate Filter compatible engine oils and Burson offers the best available oils for older engines and performance engines.

Burson Oils undergo rigorous quality assurance to meet the latest industry specifications and standards all completed by Fuchs Lubricants Australia. Its Lubricants are made using the best available base oils and advanced additive technology that delivers world class lubrication to the vast range of vehicles in the Australian market.

BURSON
AUTO PARTS
TRICO

Like other products Burson has, Burson Oil can be ready to send to workshops as soon as possible.

Burson Oil is split into two different categories:

- **Perform** – designed to not only meet the standard, but exceed it with improved protection for vehicles
- **Optimal** – the top-tier choice designed to the high quality of other premium-grade lubricant brands on the market

Ready for workshops

No matter what Burson Oil a workshop chooses, it does so knowing the trusted names of Burson Auto Parts and Fuchs back it.

Thanks to Burson Auto Parts' vast network of stores, customers can get high-quality Burson Oil no matter where they are.

With a focus on quality and affordability, Burson's range is formulated to get the best out of vehicles, while its extensive network of over 215 stores, National distribution centres as well as 1200 delivery vehicles ensures a reliable supply.

Burson offers everything from one (1) litre bottles to two hundred and five (205) litre drums across the range.

Each Burson store can deliver a customers' oil needs as required making its offer the best in the industry.

As Australia's trusted supplier of after-market automotive parts, Burson Auto Parts is committed to providing a competitively priced oil range that satisfies its customers' needs and allows you to pass on savings. With Burson Oil customers can keep their workshops moving with savings at the checkout, without compromising on quality.

Burson customers can streamline their workshop inventory with the Burson lubricant range, designed to meet the demands of the trade and trusted by professionals across Australia. ACM

Find out more about the Burson Oil range and your local supplier. Visit burson.com.au for more information

OPTIMAL
0W-30
205L
PERFORM
OPTIMAL
OPTIMAL
OPTIMAL
PERFORM

Burson's oil range comes in a number of volumes to suit the demands of its trade customers.

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Blue chip talent

CoolDrive supports rising automotive talent on the world stage

CoolDrive Auto Parts continues to support the next generation of automotive professionals, recently backing Australian apprentice Ross Colquhoun on his journey to WorldSkills Lyon 2024 and providing him with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the Blanchard Racing Team (BRT) during a Supercars race weekend.

Ross - a young technician from Coffs Harbour, NSW - competed as a Skillaroo on the world stage at the 47th WorldSkills International Competition in Lyon, France, where he was named Australia's "Best of Nation" award winner.

Placing fifth globally in the Automobile Technology category, Ross excelled in eight intensive competition modules, ranging from engine diagnostics and gearbox overhaul to ADAS calibration and EV diagnostics.

He also received a Medallion of Excellence at the conclusion of the event in recognition of his outstanding skills.

Skilled support

CoolDrive played a pivotal role in supporting Ross' journey, providing support and product resources to aid in his training and opening doors for valuable real-world experience with CoolDrive Racing and BRT.

"At CoolDrive, we are passionate about cultivating and investing in the future leaders of the automotive industry. Ross' journey from apprentice to international competitor is a testament to the power of skill, dedication, and opportunity," CoolDrive Auto Parts Chief Operating Officer Tim Blanchard said.

"By creating pathways for apprentices like Ross to transition from national stages to global arenas, CoolDrive continues to drive home the importance of developing skilled professionals who are equipped to meet the high-tech demands of tomorrow's automotive landscape."

Ross' progression through WorldSkills Australia was built on a solid foundation of training at TAFE NSW, with mentorship from industry experts CoolDrive Technical Trainer Clint Flower and expert Kirk Trease, alongside his traineeship at A1 Mobile Mechanical Services.

His impressive performance at the 2023 WorldSkills Australia National Championship, where he secured Gold, also paved the way for his recent international success.

Beyond WorldSkills, CoolDrive also provided Ross with real-world experience with CoolDrive Racing and Blanchard Racing Team.

Images: Supplied by CoolDrive Auto Parts

Right on track

Beyond WorldSkills, CoolDrive also extended Ross an exclusive opportunity to be part of the BRT garage during this year's Sydney Supercars round as part of CoolDrive Racing, where he gained hands-on experience in professional motorsport.

Ross was provided with behind-the-scenes access to the inner workings of the BRT garage, where he witnessed firsthand

CoolDrive Auto Parts recently supported Australian apprentice Ross Colquhoun on his journey to WorldSkills Lyon 2024.

the precision and expertise required in professional racing.

Ross worked hands-on alongside both the BRT Supercars and Super2 teams, assisting with car preparation and tyre management, further proving his technical skills and adaptability in a high-performance environment.

After the weekend, he even experienced an exhilarating hot lap in the BRT Supercar.

"Ross has shown exceptional talent, and we're proud to have played a role in his journey," added Tim Blanchard.

"We were thrilled to support Ross not just in his training but also by integrating him into CoolDrive Racing and BRT, where he could experience the electrifying world of motorsport firsthand and see the wealth of opportunities available in the automotive industry.

"His story is a great example of how industry support can help young professionals thrive."

Bright future

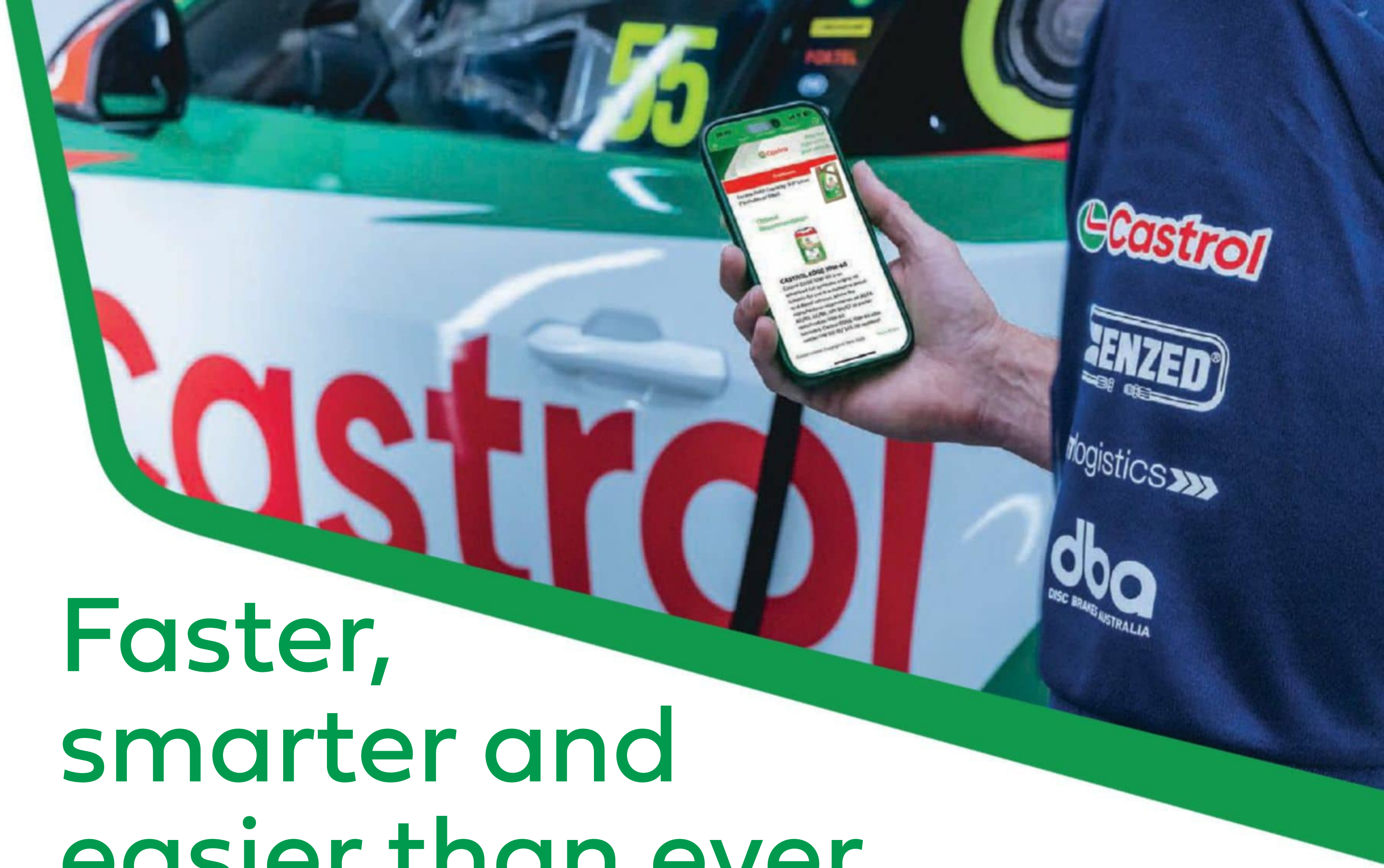
Reflecting on his journey, Ross expressed his gratitude for the opportunities and support provided by CoolDrive.

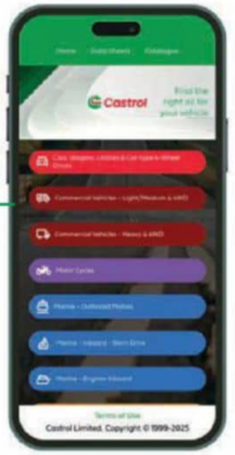
"I'm incredibly thankful for the support from CoolDrive Auto Parts throughout my WorldSkills journey and beyond," Ross said.

"Their backing not only helped me prepare for the international competition but also gave me hands-on experience in professional motorsport with BRT. Being part of the Supercars team was an unforgettable experience that has expanded my skills and passion for the industry." ACM

For further information on CoolDrive Auto Parts, please visit www.cooldrive.com.au

As part of the exclusive opportunity, Ross was able to gain hands-on experience in professional motorsport.





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Images: Supplied by MTA NSW

Mathew takes pride in ensuring each of his students receives thorough and high-quality training.

Sharp insights

Mathew at MTA NSW setting the training standard

When Mathew Hoban first stepped into the role of automotive trainer at MTA NSW in 2022, he brought with him over 15 years of experience on the tools and a deep belief that quality training can transform lives. Based in Canberra and now the ACT's Program Coordinator, Mathew is helping drive a training approach that is raising the standard across the region.

"I've always loved working with my hands and helping others learn. Becoming a trainer felt like a natural next step," Mathew said. "I get to pass on the skills I've learned, but more than that, I get to help young people feel confident in what they do."

Learn from the pros

What sets MTA NSW apart is its strong industry roots and highly personalised, one-on-one training model. As the peak body representing the automotive industry across the region, MTA NSW provides apprentices with training on the industry, by people working in the industry. All trainers, like Mathew, are tradespeople who live and breathe workshop life, bringing current, real-world insight into every lesson.

This highly specialised approach to training prepares learners for the realities of working in the industry – from understanding workshop culture and employer expectations to using up-to-date tools, technologies, and diagnostic systems found on the job. It means apprentices aren't just ticking boxes in the classroom, with training tailored to their learning style and pace.

"Some of our learners come straight from school and need a bit of extra support adjusting to work life. Others are neurodivergent or just need training delivered differently," he explains. "We meet them where they're at – visually, verbally, practically – and adapt every session to suit."

MTA NSW is at the forefront of training the next era of technicians for the ever-changing Australian auto landscape.

Tailored approach

From creating custom video playlists to bringing in real car parts for hands-on learning, Mathew goes above and beyond to engage every student. He's even kept his phone on after hours for students who need extra help, something he said is part of his commitment to being a mentor, not just a teacher.

But it's not just students who benefit from Mathew's approach. Local employers are increasingly turning to MTA NSW because of the strong outcomes they're seeing. "Employers know they're getting apprentices who are workplace-ready because we're constantly working with them to tailor our training to their needs," said Mathew.

That includes aligning lessons with specific manufacturer tools and systems and incorporating employer feedback into assessment models. "It's important to us that our courses are practical, relevant, and designed to set learners up to succeed," he said.

Ready for the future

As the industry rapidly shifts, Mathew is also leading the charge on future-ready skills. He's currently expanding into electric vehicle (EV) training and will soon be equipped to deliver EV training in the ACT – an important milestone as more workshops gear up for the next generation of vehicles.

In his dual role as program coordinator, Mathew also supports a growing team of trainers across the ACT and regional NSW. From mentoring and observing sessions to leading resource upgrades and compliance efforts, he's helping to embed a culture of continuous improvement across the board.

Ultimately, everything Mathew does comes back to one goal: setting apprentices up for success.

"I want them to leave training not just qualified, but confident. I want them to be proud of their work, passionate about their future, and part of an industry that values their skills. That's what drives me – and that's what MTA NSW is all about." **ACM**

Learn more about MTA NSW and its services at mtansw.com.au

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Image: Supercheap Auto Trade

Workshops can help grow their apprentices' knowledge thanks to the Supercheap Auto Trade platform.

Investing in the next generation

Empowering apprentices and trainees with a Supercheap Auto Trade Account

The future of the automotive industry relies on the skilled hands of today's apprentices and trainees. As vehicles become more complex and technology rapidly evolves, ongoing training and development are essential to keeping the industry at the cutting edge. For apprentices, gaining hands-on experience in workshops is just the beginning - having access to the right tools, resources, and industry support can make all the difference in building a successful career.

Workshops that encourage apprentices to familiarise themselves with sourcing parts and tools early in their careers are investing in more than just skill development - they're fostering a culture of professionalism and preparedness. Whether it's learning the importance of using quality lubricants, understanding the differences between various hand tools, or gaining insight into trade pricing, these experiences help bridge the gap between training and becoming a fully qualified mechanic.

Super setup

To support this learning, Supercheap Auto Trade enables workshop owners to add any employees, including apprentices and trainees, as authorised users through the Company Team feature. This allows apprentices to access exclusive trade pricing while giving account holders the ability to set custom spend limits and manage purchasing controls. It's a simple way to equip the entire team with the right tools at the right price while keeping account management seamless.

If a Company Team setup isn't the right fit, apprentices can still take advantage of a Supercheap Auto Trade Account - even without an ABN. Many may not realise that if they're still in training, they can benefit from trade pricing by speaking with their employer about registering a Supercheap Auto Trade account using the company ABN.

Beyond this SUPER feature, there are plenty of reasons why workshops should sign up for a Supercheap Auto Trade Account. Designed exclusively for trade professionals, the platform offers tailored pricing and a range of powerful tools to streamline workshop operations:

- **Barcode Scanner** – Scan any product, whether in-store or in your workshop, to instantly access full product details, including tailored trade pricing. Easily add products to your order for a seamless purchasing experience.
- **Parts Guide** – Now integrated with trade pricing, the Parts Guide simplifies sourcing by providing accurate information on required components. Workshops can also enable service schedule and repair time modules to assist with quoting and planning.
- **Logbook Servicing** – Select a vehicle, choose the required service, and instantly see a detailed list of necessary parts and products. The Logbook Service screen ensures that the correct products are used for each job, improving efficiency and accuracy.

The industry's commitment to upskilling is evident in the growing number of training programs, TAFE partnerships, and trade initiatives available to young mechanics. However, a proactive approach to learning is just as important as structured training. Asking questions, seeking hands-on experience, and making the most of trade-exclusive resources can set apprentices apart as they progress in their careers.

For those eager to expand their knowledge and see the latest innovations in the automotive trade, there's no better opportunity than the upcoming Autocare event in Brisbane on June 19-20. If you're at the event, be sure to visit the Supercheap Auto Trade stand (#25) and speak to the team! ACM

For more information and to join today, visit trade.supercheapauto.com.au

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Up skilled

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The Transport and Logistics sector is a critical component of Australia's economy, encompassing a diverse range of skills essential for the maintenance and operation of various vehicles and machinery. WorldSkills Australia recognises and promotes excellence in these skills through competitions and development programs. Below is an overview of key competencies within this sector:

Auto electrical

Automotive Electricians are responsible for installing, maintaining, and repairing electrical wiring and electronic components in motor vehicles. Their work spans a variety of vehicles, including cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, and specialised equipment like golf carts and forklifts. Proficiency in this field requires a deep understanding of complex electrical systems and the ability to adapt to rapidly evolving automotive technologies.

Autobody repair

Professionals in Autobody Repair focus on restoring and maintaining the structural integrity and appearance of vehicle bodies. This role demands precision, attention to detail, and proficiency with advanced machinery and technology. Technicians work on a range of vehicles, addressing issues from minor dents to major structural repairs, ensuring vehicles are safe and aesthetically pleasing.

Automotive mechanics

Automotive Mechanics specialise in the mechanical construction, maintenance, and repair of automobiles.

They are valued for their craftsmanship and diagnostic abilities, addressing a wide array of vehicle issues.

With continuous advancements in the automotive industry, mechanics must stay updated on the latest technologies and repair techniques to effectively service modern vehicles.

Automotive refinishing

This skill involves painting, refinishing, and maintaining the painted surfaces of various automotive and recreational vehicles. Achieving high-quality finishes requires expertise in colour matching, surface preparation, and application techniques. Professionals in this field emphasise workshop efficiency and productivity while adhering to industry standards.

Heavy vehicle mechanics

Heavy Vehicle Mechanics work with larger machinery such as trucks, buses, tractors, agricultural equipment, and earthmoving machinery. They specialise in the repair, maintenance, and testing of mechanical components in these vehicles. The role requires a robust understanding of complex systems and the ability to diagnose and repair issues to ensure the safe and efficient operation of heavy vehicles.

Motorcycle mechanics

Specialising in two-wheeled vehicles, Motorcycle Mechanics are responsible for the repair, maintenance, and testing of motorcycles. They must possess strong diagnostic skills and a thorough understanding of motorcycle systems to address mechanical and electrical issues, ensuring optimal performance and safety.

VETiS automotive services

Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) Automotive Services introduces students to the fundamentals of automotive technology. This program aims to equip students with foundational skills in vehicle repair, maintenance, and diagnostics, providing a pathway into the broader automotive industry.

WorldSkills Australia offers competitions in these skill areas, providing apprentices, trainees, and students with opportunities to benchmark their abilities against industry standards and peers. These competitions not only foster skill development but also promote excellence and innovation within the Transport and Logistics sector.

For more detailed information on each skill and related competitions, visit WorldSkills Australia's Transport & Logistics page.

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- **Explore** – Step into an immersive career's expo like no other. The Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo brings careers to life with hands-on experiences, industry showcases, and expert insights to help you find your path.
- **Learn** – Watch the nation's best talent in action at the 2025 National Championships & Skills Show. Across over 60 different skills and trades, competitors will showcase their expertise, proving why they're the best of the best. Their dedication, precision, and drive will inspire the next generation of skilled professionals.
- **Try** – Ever wanted to test your skills? Try'aSkill lets you roll up your sleeves and give it a go! Get hands-on with a range of trade and skill-based activities, see what sparks your interest, and get a feel for real-world careers.

Can't Make It to Brisbane? Tune into Channel WSA!

If you're passionate about skilled trades but can't be there in person, Channel WSA has you covered. It's your go-to hub for competition highlights, industry insights, and a Medal Ceremony celebrating skills excellence from the 2025 National Championships & Skills Show.

What You'll Find on Channel WSA:

- **Competition Coverage** – Get a front-row seat to intense skills battles, from welding and carpentry to electrical control and heavy vehicle technology.
- **Tips from the Best** – Hear from industry pros, past champions, and training experts as they share real-world advice to help you sharpen your skills.
- **Career Pathways & Success Stories** – Learn how the competition judges and past competitors have used WorldSkills to launch their careers and connect with industry leaders.

Stay in the loop! Follow Channel WSA on social media, subscribe on YouTube, and don't miss a moment of the action.

What is WorldSkills?

For over 40 years, WorldSkills Australia has been inspiring and empowering young Australians to excel in their chosen trades. Through competitions, training programs,

DRIVING
TOWARDS
ZERO
EMISSIONS

Images: WorldSkills Australia

Auto apprentices across a number of fields can show off their skills as events such as the National Championships & Skills Show.

Ross COLQUHOUN

MEDALLION FOR EXCELLENCE - WorldSkills International Competition, Lyon 2024

BEST OF NATION - WorldSkills International Competition, Lyon 2024

GOLD MEDALIST - 2023 National Championships

"The chance to represent my county and travel to France was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I never would have been able to see so much of Lyon and France, as well as meeting so many awesome people from all over the world without WorldSkills.

"The opportunity to learn how my industry works in other parts of the world and to see how each of the international competitors went about different challenges was such an eye opener and has shown me just how diverse the automotive industry is and how many different pathways there can be in an international skill pathway."

and industry collaboration, WorldSkills helps build a highly skilled, innovative workforce while championing the value of vocational excellence. Since 1981, WorldSkills Australia has supported over 100,000 apprentices, trainees, and students in regional and national competitions—many of whom have gone on to represent Australia on the global stage. WorldSkills programs also address skills shortages, align with national workforce priorities, and reinforce Australia's reputation for skills excellence worldwide.

Scan the QR code on the right to register your FREE spot here for the 2025 National Championships and Skills Show

Think you've got what it takes?

Every two years, over 500 WorldSkills Regional Competitions take place across 34 regions in Australia, testing the skills of more than 6,000 apprentices, trainees, and students. Medal winners from these one-day events have the chance to advance to the national level, with the best earning the opportunity to represent Australia internationally.

These competitions wouldn't happen without the support of training providers, employers, local councils, industry leaders, volunteers, and sponsors—all working together to showcase and support the next generation of skilled workers.

The 2026 competition cycle runs from February to October 2026, occurring in Training Organisations throughout Australia. While sign-ups aren't open yet, now's the time to start preparing for your chance to compete. Keep an eye out for upcoming regional events and get ready to put your skills to the test!

WorldSkills is a great chance for apprentices to test themselves under pressure.

You're a National Champion, what's next – Global stardom

WorldSkills International is the pinnacle of skills competition, where the world's best apprentices and tradies come together to showcase their talent.

WorldSkills is about setting global standards for excellence and proving that Aussie tradies are among the best in the world.

Why it matters

Every two years, competitors from 89 countries go head-to-head in over 60 skill categories. But WorldSkills isn't just about medals - it's about elevating the skilled trades, shaping industry standards, and opening doors to career-defining opportunities.

The Road to Shanghai 2026

Australia is gearing up to send its top tradespeople to the 2026 WorldSkills International Competition in Shanghai. Chosen from the medallists of the 2025 National Championships, the next Skillaroos will train for over 12 months, honing their skill to haven't thrive and inspire in 2026. Competing at the international level is a game-changer—it's a chance to understand new techniques and trends, gain industry recognition, expand career opportunities, and connect with the best in the world.

Why compete?

WorldSkills Australia isn't just about competition; it's about transformation. Participants gain unparalleled experience, industry respect, and career-boosting opportunities. Many former competitors have gone on to secure high-profile jobs, contracts, and leadership roles in their fields.

A global movement

Partnering with global organisations like UNESCO and the World Bank, WorldSkills plays a key role in strengthening vocational education and training worldwide. When you compete, you're not just showcasing your skills - you're helping to drive change on a global scale. ACM

The 2025 National Championships & Skills Show will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre between June 12-14. Scan the QR code or visit worldskills.org.au for more information

Thomas
BEVAN

SKILLAROO - WorldSkills International Competition, Lyon 2024

GOLD MEDALIST - 2023 National Championships – Heavy Vehicle Mechanics

"My experience with travelling to Lyon was a once in a lifetime, being able to travel around the world with your friends and share the same passion for your desired skill will stay with me for ever, also the feeling of representing Australia was pretty amazing as not many people can say they have.

"Throughout my WorldSkills journey I've developed many new life skills and I've had plenty of upskilling opportunity that have had a positive influence on my job day to day like system specific training, at the time I was struggling with electrical and hydraulic systems so I got the opportunity to attend multiple courses regarding those systems which have come in handy a few times since."

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Images: Modern Classics Cars Foundation

All the classics

Resto academy addressing skills shortage

What better way to learn the trade than by working on some fantastic classics like these.

The skills required to work on specialist vehicles are quickly being lost due to the ageing nature of the current workforce and low adoption rates in these bespoke trades by young people coming through. There is a lack of opportunities available with the cost of training for small businesses being prohibitive. There's however a real need to attract people to the industry to secure its future and Modern Classic Cars Foundation are taking on the task.

Tinker back in time

With plans to reverse the trend and overcome the current skills shortages affecting the specialist vehicle industry, David Dyer has established the Modern Classic Cars Foundation. As a not-for-profit, ACNC approved charity, MCCF can put their focus on hands-on training and development of their apprentices all while restoring and working on a spectrum of classics ranging from 1920-1990.

Dyer, who has operated a successful vehicle restoration business in Sydney for the past 10 years, recognised firsthand the huge problem in getting staff and work done within the industry. After speaking with other businesses, government and education bodies it came to light that the perfect setup to provide the training already existed in his business so made the decision to convert it to a foundation, creating a resto academy focused on training and education.

MCCF will be providing skills training to apprentices across various trades relating to the specialist vehicle industry and ensure there are ample training opportunities. Apprenticeships will be available in the areas of motor mechanics, auto electric, trimming, paint and panel and engine machining. To ensure the most supportive, hassle-free training opportunity to apprentices their education fees will be cost covered, tools and start up equipment supplied, and training will be close quarters and hands on with experienced, senior tradespeople.

Along with ensuring that their apprentices receive sign-off in their chosen trade, they will also be exposed to a range of bespoke skills such as working on a carburettor or magneto, rebuilding clocks or French polishing through in-house ran workshops. These skills are no-longer taught at Tafe, which makes sense given the cars of today, but are vital to be passed on to the next generation of classic car specialists.

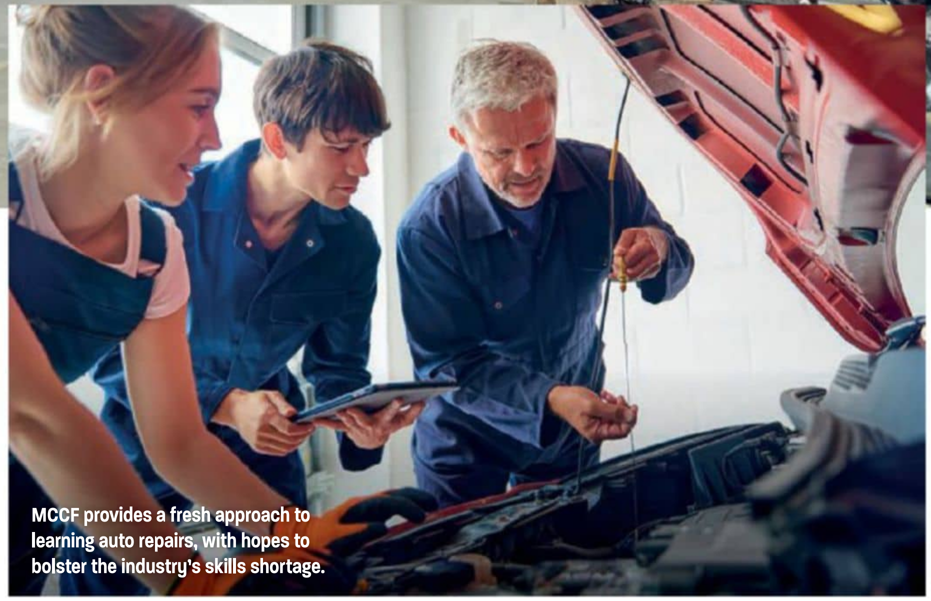
At the conclusion of an apprentices training the goal for MCCF will be to assist them in securing a job within the industry, taking on an existing business or even growing their own and the foundation will provide ongoing support for tradespeople looking to go down this route.

Building for the future

MCCF will operate as a specialist vehicle mechanic and restoration company offering service and maintenance, restorations and modifications, EV conversions, smash repairs, engine machining and rebuilding and vehicle and part sales.
The range of work will provide plenty of training opportunities to apprentices across a range of skills and vehicles.

Currently, the foundation is in the process of taking on the first ten apprentices in Sydney. From there, the plan is to increase the number of apprentices based in the Sydney workshop to 15 with the intention to then "copy and paste" the system around the country with talks already underway for workshops in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

To assist in supporting the first batch of apprentices through their training and allowing for future intakes, MCCF are seeking financial support from business partners and sponsors. ACM



MCCF provides a fresh approach to learning auto repairs, with hopes to bolster the industry's skills shortage.

For anyone looking to get involved as an apprentice, business partner, sponsor or even vehicle or parts donor more information can be found by visiting modernclassiccars.com.au foundation or contact David at david@modernclassiccars.com.au

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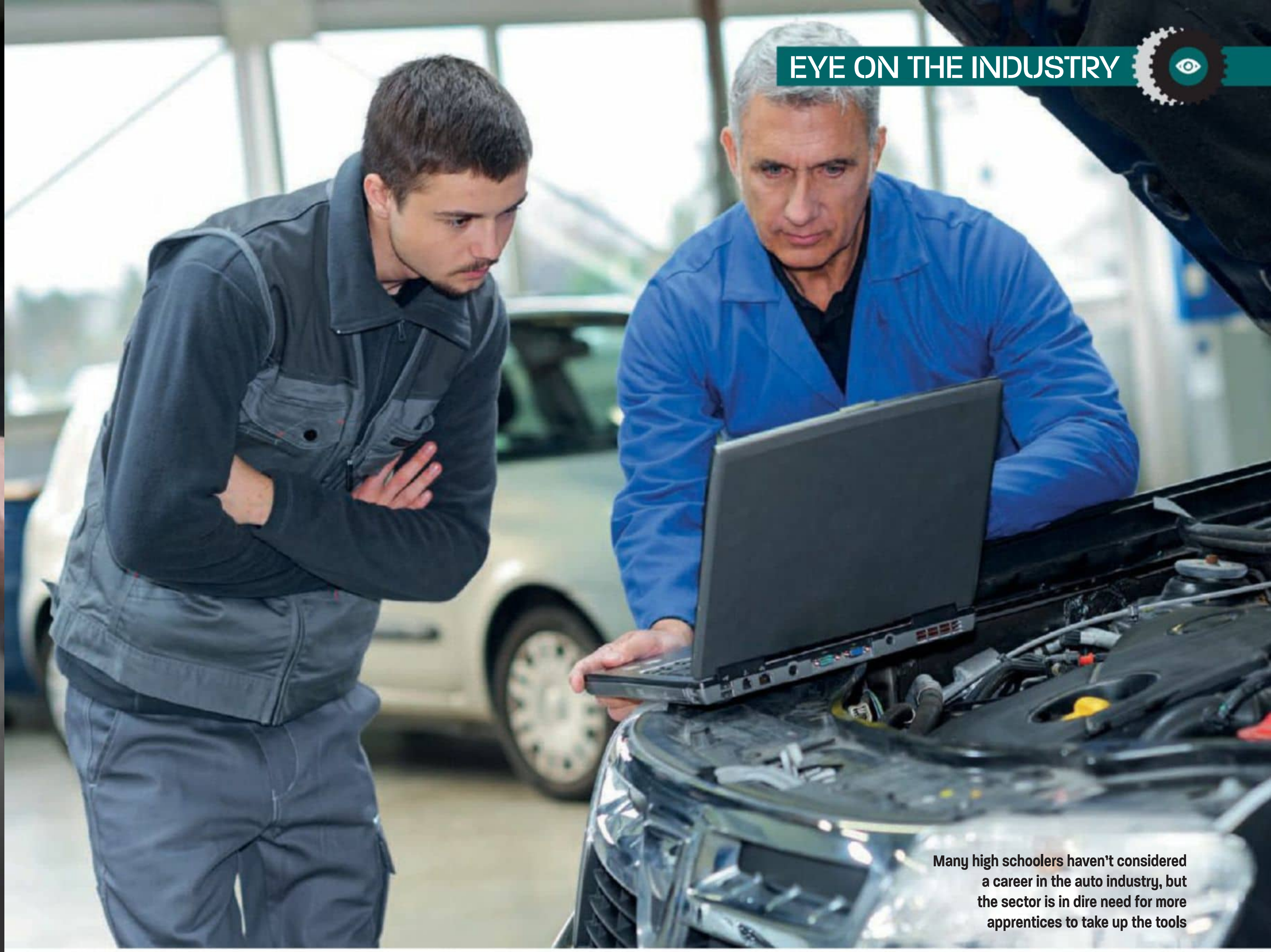

Many high schoolers haven't considered a career in the auto industry, but the sector is in dire need for more apprentices to take up the tools

Tuning in

It's time for our industry to tell its amazing story

Our industry has an amazing story to tell and the time has come for us as an industry to tackle the challenge of industry perception together.

Last year Capricorn asked our Members to name the biggest challenge they faced in running their business. Fifty-four per cent said it was finding good staff and apprentices.

It was the top response.

The skills shortage has hampered the automotive aftermarket for more than a decade. With the nearly 28,000 technician vacancies across Australia, our Members report being run-down, burnt out, and missing valuable family time.

The lack of apprentices is a significant part of that story.

In 2022, 14 per cent of Capricorn Members identified finding apprentices as a major business challenge. By 2023, that figure had jumped to 22 per cent.

Why aren't young people flocking to automotive careers? According to research from the Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance, it's largely about perception.

Almost two-thirds of high school students and nearly half of career starters aged 17 to 25 don't know about the potential careers available in automotive. They view the industry as low-tech, male-dominated, and physically demanding - and from their perspective this made the industry unattractive.

But there's hope. Lots of hope.

In need

The study found that exposure changes everything. High-schoolers who know someone in the industry show a 15 per cent point increase in considering an automotive career. Those who have discussed automotive career paths with industry insiders show a remarkable 54 percentage point uplift in interest.

That's why in 2024 Capricorn partnered

WORDS:
BRAD GANNON, GROUP CEO, CAPRICORN

The auto repair industry – including Capricorn – are working to get the word out about the many career opportunities people can have in the sector

Images: Capricorn and auremar/goodluz/stock.adobe.com

with the Motor Trades Association Queensland (MTAQ) to host automotive careers expos across the state. This roadshow brought hundreds of students directly into contact with industry opportunities. It was so successful we're now rolling it out across the country.

It's just one area where Capricorn is stepping up. We're also enhancing our Rising Stars program, expanding recognition of outstanding young apprentices to each of our zones. This creates a pool of next-generation leaders and powerful industry advocates — like Chelsea Bowers, who now works with MTAQ on the Women in Auto Trades Apprenticeships Program, or Megan Toia, whose dedication to drive hours for TAFE training exemplifies the passion the industry inspires and wants.

Careers expos and our Rising Stars program are just two pillars of Capricorn's strategy to address the skills shortage. We've identified a number of key areas where we can make a real difference, from skills development to knowledge sharing. But the key to long-term success is ensuring that pipeline of apprentices.

> Almost two-thirds of high school students and nearly half of career starters aged 17 to 25 **don't know about the potential careers** available in automotive

All in

Members aren't sitting idle either. Last year, two in five reported they were likely to take on an apprentice — up from 35 per cent in 2022 and 31 per cent in 2021. Members recognise their responsibility in building our industry's future workforce.

And that's something I love about automotive. Despite it being challenging to run a business in this sector, the industry always finds a way to move forward. New technology and new challenges mean we must continually adapt and grow.

Capricorn is committed to supporting our community to ensure businesses don't just survive but also thrive. We're always looking for ways to make Members' lives easier — including tackling the skills shortage and encouraging more young people into apprenticeships.

Today's automotive sector is far from the grease-covered stereotype many young people imagine. With the advancing technology in electric vehicles, driver assistance systems and digitisation, we need tech-savvy minds as much as mechanical aptitude. We should be an incredibly attractive industry for young people and it is just a matter of using every opportunity we get to spread the word and talk about the amazing industry it is.

That's why I'm confident we can rise to the moment. We all just need to do our bit. **ACM**

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Many organisations – including ARU – are looking to tackle Australia's skills shortage, particularly in auto repair.

Future focus

Mechanic apprentices of 2025 aim higher than ever before

WORDS:
PHIL COOKSEY, GENERAL MANAGER - APPRENTICESHIPS ARE US LTD

Mechanic apprentices of 2025 want far more than just a basic job "spinning spanners." Today's young people entering the automotive industry are looking to build long-term careers with real purpose, growth, and leadership potential. They want to make an impact in their field - and the conditions of the industry are aligning to give them exactly that.

Our Apprentice Recruitment Managers have noticed a clear shift in the mindset of young applicants. The people coming forward for apprenticeships today are far more ambitious and focused than before. They're not looking at apprenticeships as a stopgap or a fallback option. Instead, they view it as a launchpad for a rewarding, future-focused career. Many have clear goals in mind and realistic plans to climb the ranks into leadership roles within the industry.

It's also encouraging to see that these motivated individuals are coming from all walks of life and with varying academic results. Many apprentices identify as neurodiverse, and they are thriving in this field.

Their ability to think differently often leads to innovative problem-solving approaches that are proving especially valuable as the industry faces a new set of modern challenges.

Here to help

At ARU, we've seen a dramatic increase in the demand for automotive apprenticeships over the past few years. In the 2021–22 financial year, 103 people started their apprenticeship journey with us. That number grew to 142 the following year. And most recently, during the 2023–24 financial year, more than 240 individuals have taken the first step toward their careers with us.

The industry is experiencing an exciting shift that will add even more appeal. We are experiencing advancements in AI, machine learning, and sensor technology. This all calls for fresh ways of working, new thinking and problem solving, something today's apprentices are ready to offer.

Skilled mechanics are in high demand across Australia, and the attractive starting salaries reflect that need. With a solid foundation, today's automotive apprentices are poised to become tomorrow's industry leaders.

I am incredibly optimistic about the future of the Australian automotive sector, thanks to the talent, passion, and drive of the new generation entering the field. ACM

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PTEX183

Savvy service

Essential tips for small automotive businesses

The Australian car parc is ever-changing, meaning mechanics need to keep up with the latest technology and trends.

WORDS:
MUHAMMAD SOHAIL, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT, INSTITUTE OF AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (IAME)

Running a small automotive business requires more than just turning a wrench. It takes a blend of technical excellence, sound business strategy, and a commitment to continual growth and development. As the automotive industry evolves with new technologies, customer expectations, and compliance standards, it's crucial for business owners to stay agile and well-informed.

As a member-based organisation supporting thousands of automotive professionals across Australia and New Zealand, the Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers (IAME) is dedicated to empowering businesses of all sizes to succeed. Whether you're running a family-owned mechanical workshop, providing mobile services, or operating a specialist parts business, adopting the right practices can make a significant difference in your performance and sustainability.

Here are five essential tips that every small automotive business should embrace:

1. Prioritise exceptional customer service

Customer satisfaction isn't just about fixing vehicles - it's about creating trust and delivering a seamless experience. In a competitive market, exceptional service can become your strongest differentiator.

Communicate clearly with your customers about repair timelines, costs, and recommended services. Avoid technical jargon and aim to educate rather than confuse. Simple yet meaningful actions - like sending service reminders, offering courtesy vehicles, or following up post-service - help build trust and repeat business.

Encourage feedback, respond to concerns promptly, and train your staff to treat every interaction as an opportunity to leave a lasting impression. Happy customers are more likely to become advocates for your business, bringing in referrals through word-of-mouth and online reviews.

2. Embrace technology and innovation

Incorporating the latest technology isn't just for large-scale operations. Small businesses can benefit immensely from adopting modern tools and systems that boost productivity and professionalism.

Invest in workshop management software that tracks jobs, parts inventory, invoicing, and customer history. Utilise advanced diagnostic tools to increase accuracy and reduce turnaround times. Implementing digital inspection reports or real-time updates can also improve transparency and customer confidence.

With the rise in digital convenience, offering online bookings, service tracking, SMS updates, and contactless payment options is no longer a luxury - it's a necessity. Embracing innovation doesn't just improve your bottom line; it shows customers that your business is future-ready.

3. Build strong supplier and industry relationships

A well-oiled supply chain is the backbone of any automotive business. Working with reliable suppliers ensures timely access to quality parts, which directly impacts customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Establishing long-term relationships with parts suppliers, tool providers, and equipment distributors can also lead to cost savings, quicker service, and access to new or exclusive products. It pays to be loyal and proactive in your communications.

One valuable resource for workshops is Capricorn Society, a cooperative established to support automotive businesses.

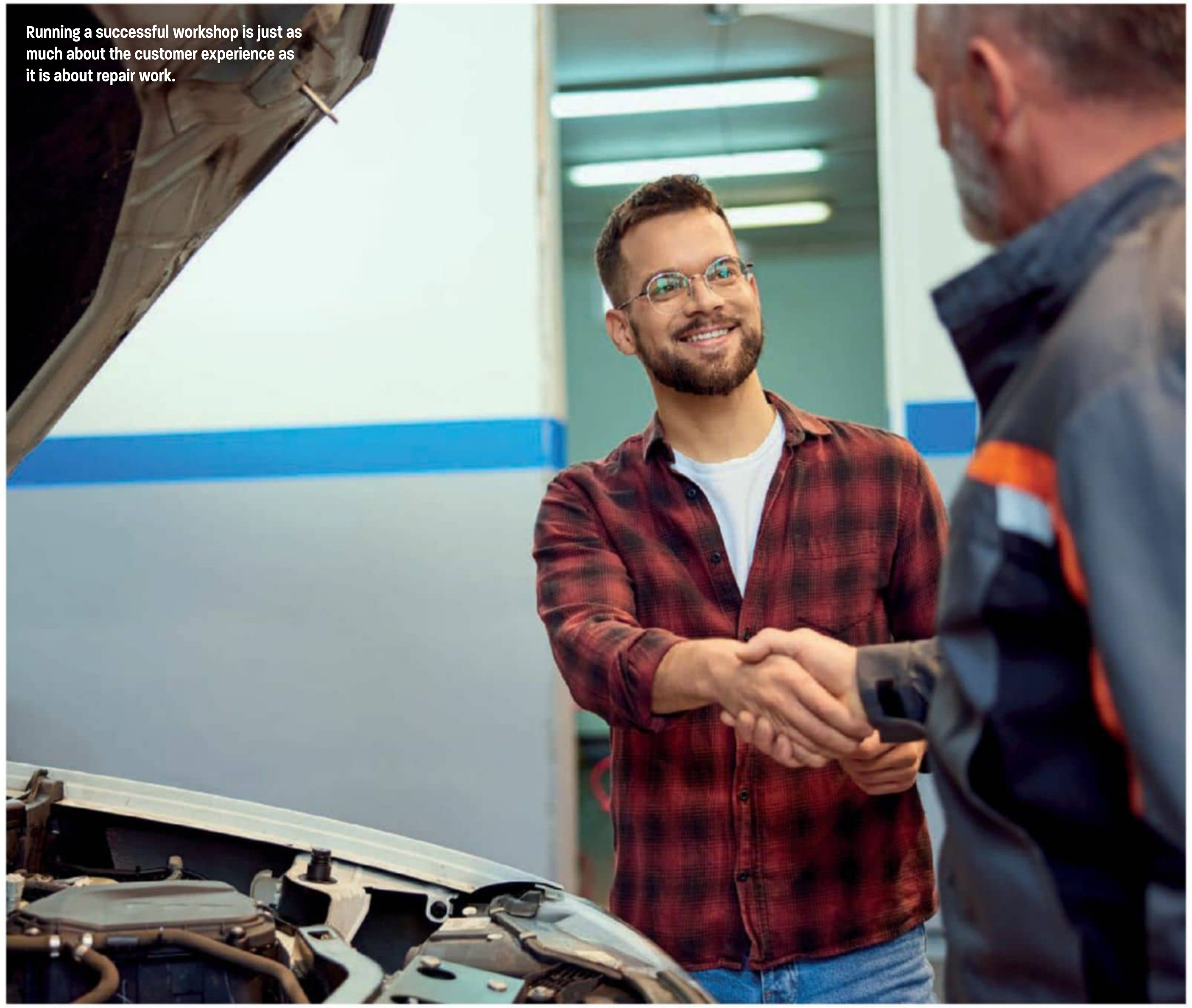
As a Capricorn Member, you gain access to consolidated monthly billing, trade credit, exclusive deals, and a vast network of trusted suppliers—all designed to streamline operations and boost profitability. Becoming a member can simplify business processes while building stronger relationships across the supply chain.

IAME is also a Capricorn Supplier Member, offering added value to Capricorn Members who engage with IAME's training and industry support services. These connections provide vital support during uncertain times and can open doors to collaboration and new business opportunities.

Beyond suppliers, staying connected within the wider automotive industry is equally important. Participating in IAME events, forums, and webinars allows you to network with peers, learn from experts, and stay ahead of industry trends. These connections can provide support during uncertain times and open doors to collaboration and new business opportunities.

Figuring out the future of your business is just as important as the present, that's why investing in training now is vital.

Images: IAME/memorystockphoto/Monkey Business/bnenin/stock.adobe.com



Running a successful workshop is just as much about the customer experience as it is about repair work.

4. Invest in training and compliance

The automotive industry is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by emerging technologies, electrification, and stricter compliance standards. To stay competitive, ongoing training and professional development are essential - not just for business owners but for every member of your team.

IAME is proud to deliver nationally recognised qualifications and accredited training through the government-funded Smart and Skilled program in NSW. We also offer air conditioning licensing and training across Australia, ensuring technicians remain compliant with Australian regulations.

Regularly updating your skills in diagnostics, hybrid and electric vehicle service, customer communication, and business management not only enhances service quality but also boosts team morale and retention. A trained team is a confident team - and that shows in your work.

5. Strengthen your brand and community presence

Your brand is more than your logo - it's your reputation, your values, and your connection to the community. In today's digital-first world, having a strong presence both online and offline is vital to staying top of mind for customers.

Maintain a professional website that clearly outlines your services, certifications, and contact information. Ask satisfied customers to leave reviews on Google and social media platforms, as these influence potential clients more than you might think. Share tips, updates, and behind-the-scenes content to humanise your brand and engage with your audience.

Don't underestimate the power of local engagement. Sponsor a local sports team, offer workshops at schools or community centres, or participate in charity events. These efforts help establish your business as a trusted and responsible part of the community.

Partnering for your success

At IAME, we understand the challenges and opportunities facing today's automotive professionals. That's why we're committed to offering tailored support, up-to-date training, and a network that empowers members to thrive—whether they're just starting out or growing an established business.

Through our advocacy, resources, and member services, we aim to create an environment where small businesses not only survive but lead the way in shaping the future of the automotive industry. ACM

For more information, exclusive member resources, or training opportunities, visit iame.com.au or contact our friendly team

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Images: WorldSkills Australia

WorldSkills Australia has been a crucial component in building trade futures for the last 40 years and counting.

Building the future, together

Pivotal moment for Australia's skill pipeline

At WorldSkills Australia, we believe skills are the backbone of a thriving economy. From the steady hands of a bricklayer laying the foundations, to the sharp focus of an auto technician under the bonnet, or the precision of an electrician wiring a system to perfection - skills are what keep our country moving forward. But skills don't develop in isolation. They're nurtured, refined, and elevated through collaboration. And at the heart of that collaboration is industry.

For over 40 years, WorldSkills Australia has championed excellence in vocational education and training. Through skills competitions, training camps, and leadership development programs, we support the next generation of tradespeople to reach their full potential. But we don't do it alone. We can't. Our success is built on partnerships with TAFEs, RTOs, governments, communities, and, most critically, with industry.

We know that to truly prepare young Australians for the future of work, we need to be in lockstep with those who are shaping it. Industry knows where the demand is, what skills are evolving, and what excellence looks like on the job. When industry partners with WorldSkills, they help shape the standard. They become part of a national movement to lift capability, instil pride in the trades, and inspire the next generation to pursue excellence.

Vital crossroads

Right now, more than ever, we need that collaboration. Skills shortages, shifting technologies, and changing workforce needs are reshaping our landscape. The best way to navigate that change is by working together, by investing in people, in training, and in partnerships that have real impact.

That's why we're inviting industry to be part of this story. Whether through sponsorship, mentorship, or simply engaging with the incredible young talent coming through the WorldSkills network, there are many ways to get involved.

This isn't just about competitions. It's about cultivating the future workforce; one that is resilient, adaptable, and equipped to meet the demands of modern industry.

At WorldSkills Australia, we're building that future. And we'd love you to build it with us. By partnering with us, you'll play a direct role in shaping skills development in Australia.

Your support enables us to engage in vital research, promote skills excellence, build careers, foster international collaboration, and deliver world-class skills competitions and leadership programs. Together, we can create lasting impact - empowering individuals, strengthening industries, and securing Australia's future workforce. ACM

WORDS:
TREVOR SCHWENKE, CEO, WORDSKILLS AUSTRALIA

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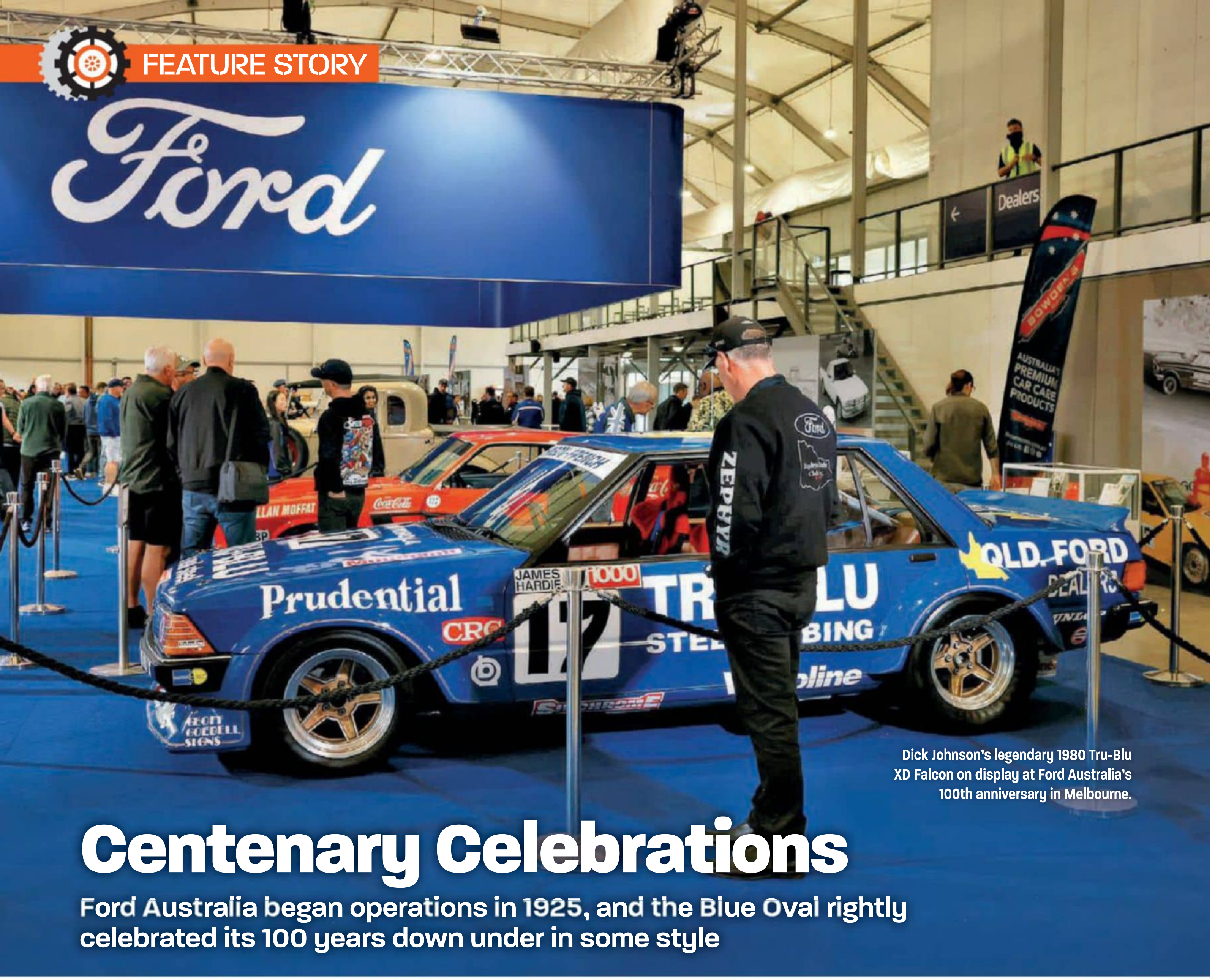


Dick Johnson's legendary 1980 Tru-Blu XD Falcon on display at Ford Australia's 100th anniversary in Melbourne.

Centenary Celebrations

Ford Australia began operations in 1925, and the Blue Oval rightly celebrated its 100 years down under in some style

WORDS: **IAIN CURRY** IMAGES: **IAIN CURRY AND FORD AUSTRALIA**

As Ford celebrates 100 years in Australia, the Blue Oval's automotive and cultural impact down under can't be overstated. Try finding an Aussie without some kind of Ford story from their own history. Probably you've owned one – or your parents, grandparents or even great grandparents – from the Model T through to any number of Falcons; then from the Territory SUV to the all-conquering Ranger ute.

You've watched Fords battle Holdens on Mount Panorama, and its logo grace the Geelong Cats' striped AFL shirts since 1925 – the world's longest-running partnership in professional sport, don't you know.

Maybe you or a family member worked at Broadmeadows or other Ford Australia manufacturing sites; or were/are on the tools at one of Ford's 240 dealer sites. It's hard to think of an Australian working mechanic who hasn't battled inside the engine bay or been underneath something sporting the blue badge.

A golden age

As a kid in 1981, I remember my old man bringing home a new Mark IV Cortina; his first Ford since owning an Anglia as a teenager. Twenty years later, my own 1984 Falcon XE earned me my first ticket after a traffic cop suggested I didn't have proper control of the vehicle. My plea of wet road, near bald tyres and rear-wheel drive failed to reduce my fine. I replaced it with a 1986 XF GL wagon, which I swear was roomier than my Sydney unit at that time.

To celebrate its 100 not-out in April, Ford Australia hosted a "History in the Making" event at Melbourne Showgrounds. This showcased a selection of road and racing cars from the brand's century, then went bang-up-to-date with the global debut of its new Ford Ranger Super Duty.

Designed and developed in Australia (although it'll be built in Thailand), this most-hardcore of Rangers hits showrooms in 2026 with 4500kg towing capacity, GVM of 4500kg, GCM of 8000kg, and estimated payload around 2000kg. This helps it trump the likes of Ford's own F-150, the Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and RAM 1500. It's also the first time Ford's "Super Duty" name has been applied to any vehicle outside of North America. Go Australia.

Everyman's car

The historical event was hosted by that most Aussie of Ford enthusiasts, actor Shane Jacobson, who brilliantly combined fun, passion and nostalgia as a classic Ford owner himself – a 1970 ZD Fairlane. The important suited folk were duly interviewed, including Bill Ford, executive chair of Ford Motor Company, and great grandson of founder Henry Ford.

"Australia was one of the first markets we established outside North America," Bill Ford said. "It was a key moment in making Ford truly global." He made mention of Ford Australia's innovative streak, including the origins of the world's first ute, brought about by simply listening to a customer.

History on show: a working replica of Ford's first ever car, an 1896 Quadricycle, with an iconic 1926 Model T behind.

It's an oft told story, but worth repeating. Back in the 1930s, an Aussie farmer sent a letter asking Ford to build a vehicle that "could go to church on Sunday and take the pigs to market on Monday." Local designer and engineer Lew Bandt took on the challenge, developing a two-door coupe-utility with integrated cargo tray in 1934, based on the Ford Model A truck.

Bandt's own light beige 1934 Ford coupe ute – a vehicle he helped restore and was tragically killed in while driving it in 1987 – was on display as part of the celebrations. It's poignant that the legacy lives on with the Australian-designed and engineered Ranger ute being our best-selling vehicle for three years running. Ford Australia remains the country's largest automotive employer, with a team of 1500 employees nationwide.

Ranger Super Duty trucks hauling a giant caravan and heavy tractor best demonstrated Ford Australia's current golden child: the ute and Ranger-based Everest make up a mighty 90 per cent of all Ford's local sales. But it hasn't always been this way.

Remember when Aussies bought hatchbacks, sedans and wagons instead? On display were a range of Falcons from across the decades, an old Model T truck, an Escort panel van, numerous Mustangs, a graceful big 1964 Zephyr, and a Mk2 Cortina GT.

And despite being victims of questionable design choices in the 1990s, we even found some love for a body-kitted 1997 EL Falcon GT, a 1993 white Capri XR2 Turbo (with period three-spoke alloys), and the holy grail of EB Falcons – the 1992 IndyCar Pace Car with bright purple and blue body graphics. Different times.

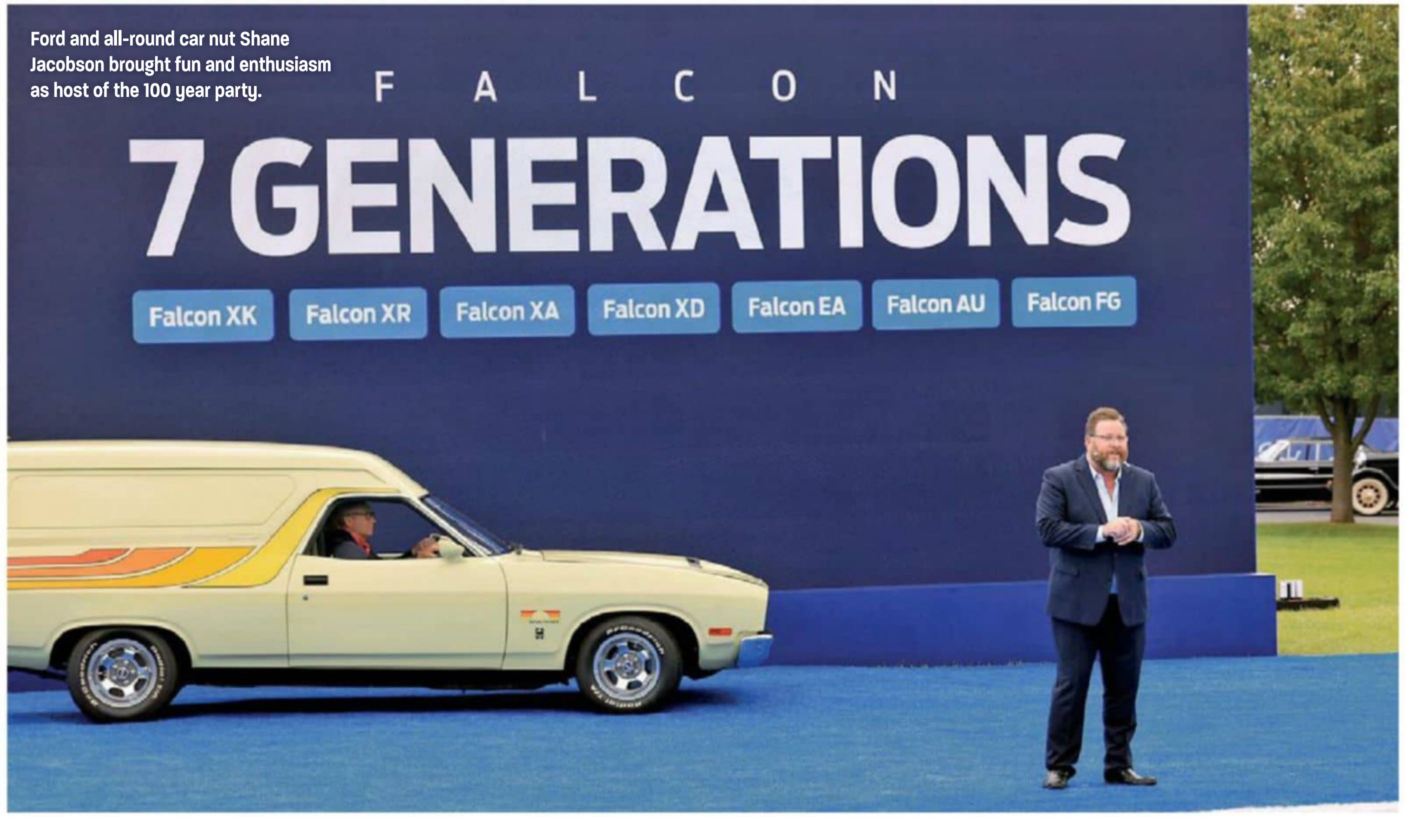
On the track

Ford Australia's motorsport was rightly celebrated too, with current Supercars drivers Cam Waters, James Courtney, Will Davison and others arriving in full racing garb. Then they rolled out the big gun. Five-time Australian Touring Car Champion and three-time Bathurst champ (all with Ford), Dick Johnson.

Footage of the great man's rock-caused crash while leading 1980's Bathurst 1000 in his Tru-Blu XD Falcon brought back memories. The Australian public donated $72,000 to help rebuild the car, a sum matched by Ford CEO Edsel Ford II, who'd called into Channel Seven as part of the fundraiser.

Such a story and the iconic footage – part of Australian sporting folklore – can build brand desire and loyalty. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who sought out a square-edged early 80's Falcon sedan (mine was blue, like Dick's) because it had echoes (if not the wide wheel arches) of that famous big four-door racer.

At the centenary, the real Tru-Blu Falcon



Ford and all-round car nut Shane Jacobson brought fun and enthusiasm as host of the 100 year party.

ALLAN MOFFAT RACING
Coca-Cola
BP
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302
BOSS 302
GOODYEAR

Allan Moffat's monstrous Coca-Cola liveried 1969 Trans-Am Mustang.

FORD
MOFFAT FORD DEALERS
1
2
CAMEL
FILTERS
BP
GOODYEAR

Formation finish: the Moffat Ford Dealers XC Falcon 1-2 from the 1977 Bathurst 1000.

burbled past packed Showground stands as Dick watched on.

Proving he's a comedian and a gun driver, Jacobson recounted the time Dick was interviewed about a problem with the car which had caused its retirement. "It was an electric issue," he said. "The conrod went through the alternator." Brilliant.

The future of Ford Performance's racing was highlighted with a reminder of Ford's return to Formula 1 in 2026, while its Mustang Dark Horse R was on display, ahead of the Mustang Challenge one-make series also launching in Australia next year. Parked beside was the Ranger Raptor which snared the Production 4WD class at last year's Finke Desert Race.

Older legends were found inside. The Moffat Ford Dealers XC Falcons which formation finished at the 1977 Bathurst 1000 were staggered across a chequered line (they look more incredible with each passing year); while Moffat's Coca-Cola-liveried 1969 Trans-Am Mustang was one of many to be shown by the always-excellent Bowden Collection. Such a low, menacing race car from the peak muscle period.

Moffat's 1971 XY Falcon GT-HO Phase III which won the 1973 Australian Touring Car Championship also stole hearts, as did the one-of-four XA GT-HO Phase IV parked beside.

There was the 2006 Bathurst 1000-winning Triple Eight BA Falcon of Craig Lowndes and Jamie Whincup; the 2003/04 BA Falcon which won back-to-back V8 Supercar championships in Marcos Ambrose's hands; and to mix things up, a 1968 XT Falcon GT rally car which completed the London to Sydney Marathon twice, scoring podiums each time.

The event saw the world debut of the Ranger Super Duty pickup.

Fine wines

Other curios included a pair of replica Mad Max Interceptors: a "Big Bopper" 1974 XB sedan, and a Main Force Patrol (MFP) XB Falcon 500; an 1896 Quadricycle replica of the first car Henry Ford developed and built; an original "Dalgety" 1926 Model T built in Geelong in the old Dalgety wool store; and the 2002 fibreglass Ford Territory R7 Concept, which pre-dated the production car by two years. Proper Ford aficionado stuff.

If you love your Fords, the brand also launched its Heritage Vault as part of the celebration. This is an online resource (at fordheritagevault.com) which is home to more than 2500 brochures and images of Ford models sold in Australia from 1925. The colour brochure on the 1974 Falcon Overniter – a baked acrylic aluminium caravan you put on a Falcon ute's tray and sleeps four – is a particular highlight. How many of those survive?

It's free to browse, but be prepared to go down a nostalgia rabbit hole (as I did) and write off the rest of your day. Especially as it also houses more than 16,000 digital items from Fords globally, such as brochures, photos and regional issues of the Ford Times magazine.

Ford enthusiasts were invited to display their rare wares in Melbourne.

A nice touch at the 100-year celebration was hearing from generations who'd worked for Ford Australia, engineering and building the cars that are part of all our histories. Video messages from Ford owners – young and old, classic Fords and new – remind of the enthusiasm the brand generates, despite the local manufacturing plants now all shut down.

"Any time a family member turns 100, it's a big deal," said Bill Ford. "This is a very big deal for us; Ford Australia has meant so much to our company over the years. The products have been amazing. We're going to be a family business for a long time. We're not just another nameless, faceless corporation."

Bill Ford ended by reminding that what the brand doesn't do is "boring vehicles." He said Ford Australia mirrored this principle. "We do exciting, emotional vehicles, and we'll leave the boring stuff to somebody else."

Long may that continue. **ACM**

Ford
FALCON
SIRTEK
9
1

The showgrounds displayed racing legends, concept Fords and even Mad Max interceptors.

Big time

SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2: Revolutionising ADAS Calibration for Passenger Vehicles

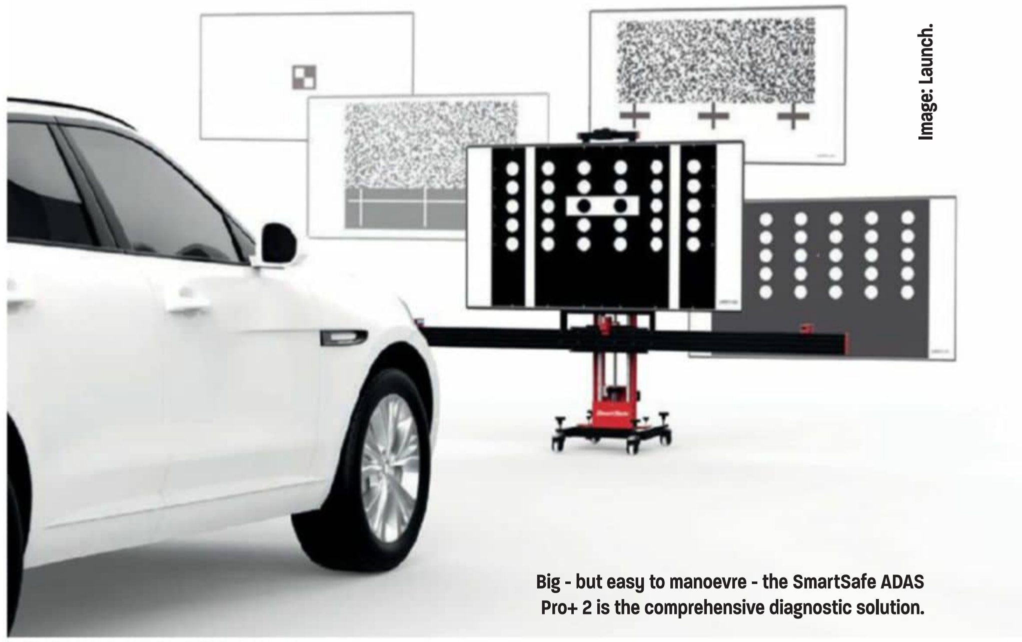

Image: Launch.

Big - but easy to manoeuvre - the SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ 2 is the comprehensive diagnostic solution.

As the automotive industry continues to embrace the advanced technology embedded in modern vehicles, the need for precise and efficient calibration of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) has never been more crucial. Enter the SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 - a cutting-edge solution designed for automotive professionals looking to streamline ADAS calibration and deliver top-notch service. This professional-grade device is a game-changer for automobile manufacturers, repair shops, and automotive glass specialists, offering unmatched precision and ease of use.

A leap forward in ADAS calibration

The SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 is an all-in-one calibration tool that combines high-end technology with user-friendly design. Featuring a massive **75-inch high-definition LCD screen**, the device offers a clear and crisp digital display of the front camera target. Gone are the days of cumbersome physical target heads - this innovation significantly enhances calibration efficiency by eliminating the need for manual setup and storage. It also reduces target maintenance and transportation costs, making it a cost-effective solution for businesses.

Unmatched accuracy

The SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 is engineered for precision. With its **millimetre-level laser rangefinder**, the device ensures ultra-accurate calibration that meets the highest industry standards. Whether it's adjusting horizontal angles or fine-tuning the front-to-back and left-to-right alignment, the Pro+ V2 guarantees precise results, completing tasks in as little as one minute. This exceptional accuracy allows for quick, efficient calibration that saves both time and resources.

Features that drive efficiency

1. **Digital Front Camera Targets:** The Pro+ V2 eliminates the need for traditional physical targets by utilising digital displays for front camera targets. This not only accelerates the calibration process but also minimises the physical storage requirements of bulky equipment.
2. **High-Definition Display:** The 75-inch LCD screen, boasting **4K resolution**, provides a stunning 1:1 ratio that digitally restores the physical target with impressive clarity. This feature aids technicians in achieving perfect with ease.
3. **Precision Fine-Tuning:** The device supports both **electric lifting** and **manual fine-tuning** of beams, allowing for fine adjustments in all directions - horizontal, vertical, and lateral. Technicians can perform precise centring and parallel alignment in record time.
4. **User-Friendly Software:** Equipped with a sophisticated software interface, the Pro+ V2 guides users through every step of the calibration process with **graphic tutorials and step-by-step instructions**. This feature simplifies complex tasks, making the tool accessible even for less experienced technicians.
5. **Comprehensive Reporting:** After calibration, the system generates a detailed **comparison report**, showcasing the before and after status of the calibration. This feature is essential for verifying the quality and accuracy of the work, ensuring customers receive only the best service.

Designed for versatility and convenience

The SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 is compatible with a wide range of ADAS targets, including more than **70 targets including front camera digital targets**, and optional AVM/RCW physical target making it a versatile addition to any workshop. The system's intuitive design allows for easy **level adjustments** and equipment fine-tuning, ensuring that each setup is perfect for precise calibration. The **millimetre-level laser rangefinder** ensures accuracy at every step, while the ability to fine-tune angles in both horizontal and vertical planes makes the calibration process faster and more effective. All of this is made possible by the system's quick setup, eliminating time-consuming manual tasks while maintaining accuracy.

Ultimate analytics

For those in the business of ADAS calibration, the SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 is an invaluable tool that brings together cutting-edge technology, unparalleled precision, and ease of use. Whether you're a large automotive repair facility, an OEM manufacturer, or an automotive glass service provider, the Pro+ V2 will transform the way you approach ADAS calibration. With faster turnaround times, lower operational costs, and a user-friendly interface, this device is truly the future of vehicle safety system calibration.

In a world where every second counts and precision is paramount, the SmartSafe ADAS Pro+ V2 is setting a new standard for the industry—empowering automotive professionals to calibrate with confidence and deliver exceptional results every time. ACM

For more information, check out launchtech.com.au or call 1300 369 788

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Ready to roll

Penrite releases new Enviro+ R17 engine oil

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FULL SYNTHETIC
R17
PETROL & DIESEL
5W-30
Since 1926
20L

Penrite's new Enivro+ R17 engine oil features Penrite's Hybrid Additive technology.

Penrite has just released a new engine oil, Enviro+ R17. A premium full synthetic SAE 5W-30 engine oil developed for service of Renault and Nissan vehicles requiring the Renault RN17 specification. It uses the latest advanced mid SAPS additive technology for ultimate engine wear protection.

Enviro+ R17

Enviro+ R17 meets and exceeds API SP, ACEA C2, ACEA C3 as well as many other manufacturers specifications.

This product has been developed for use in Euro 6d Renault group and Nissan engines that require RN17 specification but can also be used for most modern direct-injection turbocharged engines, especially high-performance engines fitted with Diesel Particulate Filters (DPF's) or Gasolene Particulate Filters (GPF's) requiring either an ACEA C2 or an ACEA C3 engine oil.

It also features Penrite's Hybrid Additive technology providing excellent emulsion properties to combat moisture and corrosion in plug-in (PHEV) and conventional (HEV) hybrid vehicles, as well as Extended Range Electric Vehicles (EREV), which are equipped with both petrol and electric engines, especially in vehicles equipped with 'stop/start' systems.

Solid stuff

As an API SP grade engine oil, it provides enhanced LSPI protection, reduced turbocharger deposits and better wear protection for 'Idle Stop' engines, improved fuel economy (2.5 per cent vs reference oil in M111FE test) against industry standards and superior protection for emission control devices such as catalytic converters and DPF's. Suitable for late model Renault Arkana, Captur, Kadjar, Trafic, Duster, Megane and Nissan Qashqai as well as other makes and models. **ACM**

Further details on this product are available on the Penrite web site at: penriteoil.com.au/products/enviro-r17-full-syn Visit penriteoil.com.au/product-selector#/ to visit the Penrite Recommendation Guide, which will ensure you receive the correct fluid for your application or call the Penrite Technical Assistance line on 1300 736 748.

Penrite recommend 'The Right Oil for the Right Application'

TRAFIC
OW24 KLV

Images: Penrite, Renault Australia, Nissan Australia

Enviro+ R17 is designed for a variety of Renault and Nissan vehicles, among others

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Fit for service

Ryco's filter removal kits

When conducting a service, it's important you have the right tools on hand to ensure that you achieve the best job possible.

It's why Ryco have developed a range of tools to assist with servicing filters, with added accessories to support with other everyday tasks in your workshop.

Designed to take away the frustration usually experienced during the removal and refitting of spin on or cartridge oil filters located in difficult locations, the RST200 Ryco Spin on Filter Removal Cup Kit is the perfect kit to have on hand.

With cups made of high-quality cast aluminium, they're housed in a sturdy purpose-moulded carry case.

For those looking for something to assist with in-tank fuel filters, the RST100 Ryco In-Tank Fuel Filter Removal Tool Kit includes one master tool with four different attachments included. Made of nitrogenated hardened steel for durability and rust resistance, it is designed to make in-tank fuel filter replacement easier.

But Ryco's tools and accessories also go beyond filter removal and application, with the RST300 Ryco Flexi Funnel. Available in two different sizes, the inner aluminium core allows you to shape the funnel to whatever channel you need, especially in those hard-to-reach places, all without ever losing rigidity. It's easy to clean with a simple wipe using a clean cloth, and can be used outside of the workshop and in the home as a multipurpose tool.

While Ryco's filters are developed to meet or exceed OE standards, their tools go beyond the obvious and are designed to make the everyday workshop mechanic's job easier when using Ryco filters. ACM

For more information, head to the Ryco website, rycofilters.com.au

Shell HELIX HX7 10W-40

Images: Ryco

The RST300 Ryco Flexi Funnel might look simple, but its inner aluminium core means you can shape it as narrow as you need to reach tight spots.

The RST200 Ryco Spin on Filter Removal Cup Kit helps alleviate the issues with removing/refitting spin on or cartridge oil filters in tight spaces.

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Castrol Repco workshopwhisperer CAPRICORN

Image: Niterra

This new EDPS range from Niterra features a tonne of innovations that help engine optimisation.

Sensational sensors

NTK Extends its portfolio with new EDPS range

As the world's leading ignition and sensor specialist, Niterra Australia announces the launch of its new Exhaust and Differential Pressure Sensor (EDPS) range.

NTK's premier status in the industry is driven by its dedication to four competitive advantages – range, availability, tech support and OE standards.

NTK expanded its comprehensive catalogue of sensors by releasing EDPS in February 2025. This latest addition to NTK's sensor range highlights its unique offerings to the Australian aftermarket, quickly gaining popularity among distributors, workshops, and end-users.

What does an EDPS do?

- EDPS play a significant role in engine optimisation. They are required to provide engine control units (ECU) with the necessary information regarding the exhaust gas pressures and the filling level of the diesel particulate filter (DPF). The NTK EDPS range include differential pressure sensors (DPS), Exhaust Pressure Sensors (EPS) and High-Pressure Sensors (HPS). It provides comprehensive vehicle coverage. The sensors, moreover, are capable of being installed at a variety of different vehicle positions
- The DPS gauges the pressure drop between two positions in the flow pattern. It is installed at different locations in the exhaust manifold (before/after the DPF, before/after the catalyst, before/after the turbocharger or before/after the EGR (exhaust gas recirculation) cooler). At one point, it regulates the low-pressure gas recirculation. At the other position. It observes the function of the DPF, while also reporting its charge status back to the ECU.
- The EPS measures the pressure and reports this information back to the ECU. It can be mounted at different positions in the exhaust system, for example before the DPF, before the turbocharger or after the turbocharger.
- The HPS measures the back pressure of the exhaust gases. It is installed either before the DPF, before the turbocharger, after the turbocharger, or after the EGR cooler. This information is sent to the ECU which uses it to monitor and protect the turbocharger unit. The monitoring of output air pressure prevents back pressure damage to the exhaust manifold. For EGR valves and EGR Coolers, the information is also used to adapt and control the exhaust gas recirculation rate – which is important in terms of adhering to the emissions standards.

Building on years of leadership in sensor technology for both vehicle manufacturers and the aftermarket, NTK's addition of EDPS completes its portfolio of anti-pollution products.

"Our range, availability, technical support and OE quality makes NTK Sensors the most trusted brand for mechanical workshops," Niterra Australia/NTK Product Manager James Henson said.

"Modern vehicles require greater efficiency, optimised fuel consumption, and maintained performance while ensuring safety, pollution, reliability and long service life," James explained. "All these functions depend on the ECU, which processes inputs from sensors throughout the vehicle. Quality sensors are crucial for ensuring that vehicles operate as intended by the manufacturer."

To support these new ranges, NTK has released educational marketing materials, including an informative YouTube video and complementary advertising artwork, to spread awareness about these exciting new products. ACM

For more information, call Niterra Australia on 1300 554 059 or visit ngk.com.au

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Nothing like installing fresh brakes that are ready to perform.

Images: Disc Brakes Australia

Switch-out

DBA's pro tip: The key role of clean wheel hubs in brake performance

Mechanics know that every detail matters, especially when it comes to safety-critical parts such as brakes. One often-overlooked step that can save you time, money, and headaches - cleaning the wheel hubs.

While it might seem like a minor task, skipping this step can lead to issues like brake pulsation, uneven wear, resulting in customer dissatisfaction. Let's explore why hub cleaning is a best practice and how it can elevate your workshop's reputation for quality work.

The overlooked step that prevents costly brake issues

The wheel hub is the foundation for the brake rotor. If it's not clean and flat, the rotor won't sit properly, leading to performance and safety issues. Here's why cleaning the wheel hub should be part of every rotor installation:

1. **Prevents disc thickness variation (DTV):** Uneven mounting surfaces caused by rust, dirt, or old coatings can result in Disc Rotor runout, leading to uneven pad material deposits on the rotor surface. This, in turn, causes brake pulsation and steering wheel vibration. Cleaning the hub reduces the risk of DTV and ensures smooth operation.
2. **Ensures proper rotor alignment:** A clean hub guarantees the rotor spins true, avoiding premature wear on both the rotor and brake pads.
3. **Maximises rotor lifespan:** A properly seated rotor wears evenly and resists hot spots and warping, ensuring it lasts longer and performs better.
4. **Reduces comebacks and customer complaints:** Customers expect flawless brake performance after a rotor replacement. Proper hub cleaning helps deliver just that, minimising the chances of comebacks and keeping customers satisfied.

What happens when hub cleaning is skipped?

Even the best rotors can't compensate for a poorly cleaned hub. Here's what can go wrong:

- **Brake pulsation and vibration**: Uneven hubs often lead to a pulsating brake pedal or steering wheel vibration, which customers notice immediately.
- **Premature rotor wear:** Uneven surfaces cause hot spots and warping, reducing the rotor's lifespan and increasing costs.
- **Noise and squealing:** Debris or rust on the hub can create uneven contact between the rotor and brake pads, leading to unwanted noises.
- **Safety risks:** Improper rotor alignment compromises braking performance, increasing stopping distances and posing safety hazards.
- **Damaged reputation:** Repeated brake issues after a service can tarnish your workshop's reputation and drive customers elsewhere.

Six steps to a perfect rotor install

Cleaning wheel hubs is straightforward and ensures proper rotor alignment and performance. Here's how to do it:

1. **Remove the old Rotor:** Take off the wheel and old rotor, then inspect the hub for rust, dirt, or old coatings.
2. **Scrub the Hub Surface:** Use a wire brush, abrasive pad, or hub cleaning tool to remove debris and corrosion. For tougher spots, a rotary tool or sandpaper works well.
3. **Wipe Down the Hub:** Clean the hub with a cloth or brake cleaner to remove any leftover particles.
4. **Check for Flatness:** Use a straightedge or feeler gauge to confirm the hub is flat. Resurface or replace it if damaged.
5. **Check for Runout:** A dial gauge is recommended to check the hub for any lateral runout or eccentricity.
6. **Install the New Rotor:** Mount the new rotor and torque the wheel nuts to spec.

A dirty hub ruins even the best rotors - always clean it.

DBA's precision: quality you can trust

At Disc Brakes Australia (DBA), precision is at the heart of every rotor. During the manufacturing process, each rotor is precision-checked to ensure flatness within 5 microns—just five thousandths of a millimetre—ensuring optimal performance.

This meticulous attention to detail minimizes runout and guarantees top-tier performance right out of the box. With DBA's commitment to quality, you can install their rotors with confidence, knowing they meet and exceed industry standards.

A small step with big benefits

Taking a few extra minutes to clean the wheel hubs can make all the difference. It ensures proper rotor alignment, prevents comebacks, and keeps your customers satisfied.

Most importantly, it helps your workshop maintain its reputation for delivering quality work.

By making hub cleaning a standard part of your brake service process, you'll not only achieve better results but also build lasting trust with your customers. After all, a job done right the first time is a job that doesn't come back.

Upgrade your workshop's brake services

For high-quality rotors, pads, and brake components designed for exceptional performance, visit DBA.com.au or contact your nearest distributor. Follow us on social media for more tips, product updates, and expert advice. ACM

For more information, visit dba.com.au

DBA ensures every rotor meets strict runout and eccentricity standards before shipping.

Light it up

Ignite Halogen & Xenon Headlight replacement bulbs for enhanced visibility in winter

Ignite's Halogen and Xenon headlight bulbs are great options for those dark winters.

Available through CoolDrive Auto Parts - and ideal for winter - are Ignite's leading Halogen and Xenon headlight replacement bulbs, designed with exceptional quality and produced to OEM specifications to offer superior performance and reliability.

Delivering a best-in-class replacement experience, the bulbs are manufactured on the same production line used for leading vehicle manufacturers, which ensures the highest level of excellence through ISO/IATF quality management systems.

With premium materials meeting international OEM standards and certified with ECE and DOT certifications, Ignite's headlight bulbs offer drivers with a safe and legal lighting solution approved for use on Australian roads (excluding rally).

The 12V Halogen standard replacement bulbs provide exceptional performance and reliability –boasting an extended long-life range for a lifespan of up to two times longer than the minimum ECE requirement of standard halogen bulbs.

For Bus and Truck applications, Ignite offers a range of 24V Halogen bulbs in both Standard and Rally variants.

H11
H4
24V 100/90W TRUCK
H4 ULTRA WHITE
UP TO 4300K WHITE LIGHT
H7 +200% ULTRA VISION
MORE LIGHT UP TO +200%
D1S XENON
D2S XENON
H4 LONG LIFE
H11 LONG LIFE

Ignite has a variety of globes across its More Light and White Light ranges.

Images: CoolDrive Auto Parts

Visibility upgrade

To further enhance winter visibility, Ignite's Halogen Upgrade options offer two distinct categories – More Light and White Light. The Plus 200 per cent upgrade delivers up to 200 per cent more light intensity, while the Plus 150 per cent offers up to 150 per cent more - both significantly improving night-time and low-visibility driving.

The 4300K Halogen Upgrade bulbs use an advanced coating formula and provide a stunning 4300 Kelvin cool white light, ideal for improved visibility and performance.

Also available are Xenon HID replacement bulbs, offering high-intensity output, with 42V and 85V variants, and LED retrofit options for headlights and signal lights, along with CANbus kits for compatibility. ACM

For more information on the Ignite range, visit cooldrive.com.au

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GMB

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GMB quality drive belts and timing kits are manufactured to OE specifications and use the best materials available. Mechanics across the globe trust and use GMB engine drive components due to the quality and reliability of each component. Timing components are required to be changed at "Kilometre Intervals" due to their integral operation to the engine. Using exceptional quality components is critical to ensure long engine life. At GMB, we manufacture the belts, idlers and tensioners so you know exactly what is in the box each and every time! Speak to GMB to learn more about our wide range of quality GMB products.

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Take command

Introducing Command Cruise, Parking System and Coolant

For over 40 years, Command Auto Group's passion has been delivering excellence in the automotive and hardware markets. It's committed to providing top-quality products, technical support, and services to its customers.

Command Auto Group is very proud and excited to release new Cruise Control Systems, Parking Systems, Throttle Controllers and Engine Coolant under the Command Brand.

Its team's desire is to continue our growth in new and wider markets and product opportunities, increasing partnerships with new and existing customers across Australia.

Coolant

Command Performance Fluids Coolant range is 100 per cent Australian owned and made, offering our customers the latest technology and some of the highest protection periods for premium engine coolants suitable for automotive, motorcycle, marine, commercial and industrial applications.

With formulas that have performed exceptionally well in all conditions to meet or exceed OEM specifications providing confidence in ultra long-term protection and performance.

Some highlights include:

- Developed using the latest technology in both organic (OAT) formulations and silicated organic (SI-OAT) formulations with industry leading protection periods
- Up to **10 Years, 1,000,000KM** for passenger & heavy vehicles in OAT formula
- Up to **8 Years, 750,000KM** for passenger & heavy vehicle in SI-OAT formula
- Up to **8 Years, 32000hrs** for marine and stationary engines
- Premixed coolants come mixed at 50 per cent providing extra protection for your engine

A bottle design with large 53mm cap provides a smoother more balanced pouring experience with no glugging when pouring.

The Command Performance Fluids range of coolants are available in 1L, 2.5L, 5L, 20L, 205L & 1,000L IBC. Complemented by high quality demineralised water we are proud to offer a complete range with fast supply of all orders including bulk sizes.

From parking systems to throttle controllers, Command Auto has a plethora of high quality car tech.

Parking systems

The new range of Command High-Definition Parking Systems adopt the latest in Analogue High-Definition technology to produce crisp and clear images at an affordable level without sacrificing quality or longevity.

Command Parking Systems offers a wide range of applications to suit almost all passenger vehicles and heavy-duty commercial vehicles, including OE style solutions.

With experience and creative initiative, our team are pleased to help you in creating your own custom solutions for cars, caravan, trailers, horse floats and even more demanding mining and similar commercial applications.

Key features include:

- **High-definition range** – Quality Camera & Monitor Range
- **Standard definition range** – Quality Camera & Monitor Range for the budget conscious
- Passenger vehicle, heavy duty & commercial applications
- **Professional quality** – Highest quality materials and Ingress Protection in many models.
- **Unique products** – Including advanced pedestrian and vehicle detection warning, audio & visual warnings in many models
- **Universal fitment** – Great options to suit a wide range of vehicle applications.
- **High quality ultrasonic sensors** – assist in detection of hazards and parking in those tight spots
- **Numerous customisable features** – Select sensitivity and other functions
- **Technical support availability** – Peace of mind post-purchase

Command Auto has created ranges and products to exceed competition in quality, customer satisfaction, building trust and relationships with the auto industry and its customers.

Command Auto coolants are 100 per cent Australian made.

Command Auto's cruise control additions adjusts speed to road conditions.

Cruise control

Introducing the brand new **Command AP600** Professional **Cable Cruise Control**, designed for smoother, safer, more relaxed and more fuel-efficient driving. From cruising highways to off-road trails, or around the city streets, this system delivers top performance for vehicles with a traditional cable accelerator.

Perfect for 4WDs, SUVs, passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles.

Like Command Auto's Drive-By-Wire AP900 Series Command Cruise Controls, the system continuously monitors road speed and adjusts speed as necessary to road conditions with the electronic actuator or ECU making smooth continuous adjustments to keep your driving smooth, consistent and safe. The Cruise Control can be programmed to your driving style and preferences in how the cruise "picks-up" and how it manages changes to the set speed as you drive along.

The Cruise Control will control and maintain speeds perfectly from school zone speeds all the way up the speed range. You can adjust the set speed up or down using the Command Cruise Switch of your choice without touching the accelerator or brake pedal.

The Drive-By-Wire System also allows a vehicle **Speed Limiter** Function (also sold separately) to permanently or voluntarily fix the maximum vehicle speed.

There are numerous safety elements built into the cruise module like over-speed and over-rev disengage to ensure your engine and safety is protected.

Why Command Cruise Control?

- **Safer, more relaxed driving** - Less tiring and easier speed management
- **Reduced fuel consumption** - Cut costs and drive smarter

Make towing simpler with Command Auto's intuitive Throttle Controllers.

- **Professional installation** – Minimal downtime and user-friendly setup
- **Compatible** with existing vehicle systems
- **Electronic calibration** - Advanced technology for precise calibration.
- **Universal fitment** - Works across various vehicle models
- **Range of switch options** - Tailored to your preferences
- **Suits manual & auto transmission** - Manual Clutch Switch Available Separately
- **Technical support availability** - Peace of mind post-purchase

Throttle controllers

Transform the acceleration performance of your vehicle, reducing throttle lag and increasing vehicles responsiveness. The system integrates safely into your vehicle and is particularly effective when driving heavy vehicles like 4WD, while towing caravans or boats and those who enjoy a more dynamic driving style.

With over 1000 different vehicle applications.

Key Features include:

- Reduces throttle lag
- Six different modes
- Nine different sensitivities per mode
- Anti - theft function for added security
- Suits Automatic & Manual transmission
- Easy plug & play installation
- Discreet dash mount display

Modes Include:

- **Eco mode** - Best for fuel economy, slower acceleration
- **Intelligent [Intelli] mode** - Detects and monitors driving habits, Selects appropriate acceleration setting
- **Boost mode** - Improved throttle response time, smooth acceleration
- **Sport mode** - Quick throttle response, Increased acceleration when exiting corners, best 'all-round' mode
- **Elite mode** - Superb acceleration performance
- **Bypass mode** - Accelerates as normal factory setting
- **Anti-theft function (ATF)** - ATF will lock the throttle inhibiting the car from accelerating
- **One-Touch Overtaking function** - M button will jump directly to Elite Mode (while driving) to facilitate more efficient overtaking.

Upgrade your drive today

Command Auto Group's success has resulted in the continued growth of the Australian run family company, all products are manufactured to the highest standards and are covered by Command Auto Group's trusted national warranty service. ACM

Find out more, visit commandauto.com.au

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

YOUR PROFESSIONAL ADVANTAGE

Our team is our greatest asset and sets us apart through vast product & vehicle application knowledge and industry experience.

Automotive electrical, air conditioning, mechanical servicing and repairs, workshop consumables, tools and equipment.

National network, widest product range, next level customer service, technical & product knowledge and 24/7 ordering with NAPA ProLink.

More than parts, NAPA powers your performance. We make it our business to drive yours. Visit napaparts.com.au

Images: Supplied by Burson Auto Parts

Forward-thinking filtration

Burson Auto Parts has the best products at workshops' fingertips

Burson Auto Parts continues to be an Australian leader in equipping workshops with the best in filtration.

Demanding Australian roads need filters that can keep up, whether it's for oil, air or fuel. Filtration is a critical component of every car service, with oil, air, fuel, and cabin filters all playing a key role in protecting engine performance and vehicle longevity.

Whether it's a logbook service or general maintenance, replacing filters is standard practice to ensure vehicles run efficiently and reliably.

That's why having quick access to high quality filtration products is essential and Burson Auto Parts delivers just that. With a comprehensive range from trusted brands like Ryco and Wesfil, available across Burson's nationwide network of stores, mechanics can count on getting the right filters, right when they need them.

Ryco

Ryco has been innovating the filtration space for about 90 years, establishing itself as a world leader in the category. In the ever-evolving Australian car parc, Ryco stands at the forefront to deliver the best.

"Over the years, Ryco's filtration range has become more readily available at all Burson stores, making Burson a major stockist," Ryco Sales and Marketing General Manager Tony Sullivan said.

"Ryco's understanding of customer filtration needs is constantly adapting, ensuring Burson is able to meet it's customer's filtration needs.

"This capability means that workshops are supplied quickly with all the filters needed to service all vehicle types."

Ryco's filters are designed to not only meet OE standards, but exceed them.

With Australasia's only filter lab, Ryco is able to rigorously test its products, as well as use 3D scanning to quickly develop prototype solutions.

Its expertise doesn't just end at the point of sale either, Ryco's team is on-hand to provide technical assistance if needed.

"You don't just get world class filtration when you fit Ryco filters," Tony said.

"You're buying round the clock technical support, New Vehicle Warranty protection, always up to date cataloguing, and access to information and training materials developed with our Product & Engineering teams."

Wesfil

For 40 years, Australian owned Wesfil has brought its filtration expertise to market through Burson Auto Parts.

"Our service and quality products always trusted by mechanics," Wesfil Managing Director Terry Cooper said.

"Burson Auto Parts has a national store network that have the best range, quality and availability of Wesfil Filtration to deliver to mechanics far and wide in metro and regional areas.

"Burson have always upheld the best delivery service in the industry."

Wesfil filters are built to adhere to strict international standards including but not limited to ISO 9001:2000, ISO/TS 16949:2002 and ISO/TS 16949:2002.

"In addition, the standard combines the AVSQ (Italian), EAQF (French) and VDA 6.1 (German) automotive requirements," Terry added.

"ISO/TS 16949, coupled with customer-specific requirements, defines the quality system requirements for use in the automotive supply chain.

CABIN AIR FILTER
OIL FILTER
RYCO FILTERS
4WDSERVICE KIT
FUEL FILTER
WCF31NM
Z252X
Z334
RSK3C

Ryco and Wesfil have been established names in the Australian filtration space for more than 40 years.

Your trusted trade partner

Burson Auto Parts is more than just a supplier. It's a vital part of a workshop's success. From the moment owners open their workshop doors, Burson is just a phone call away, ready to support them with the best in filtration products.

Its vast network of over 215 stores across the country places Burson as an extension of a workshop's team.

Burson's extensive inventory ensures that customers can find the right part when they need it to keep their business running smoothly. With a fleet of over 1,200 delivery vehicles, Burson guarantees timely and reliable delivery of the right parts, right when they're needed.

Burson Auto Parts is committed to being the trusted partner for mechanics, providing the support and expertise needed to succeed. **ACM**

Go further and win a holiday away from it all with Burson. You could win 1 of 5 flight centre vouchers valued at $5,000 each.

Head to burson.com.au/gofurther to find out more

Brake pad wear

Keeping on top of brake quality

Brake pads play a crucial role in a vehicle's braking system. Over time, they are subjected to wear due to abrasive action with the disc rotor, which is why Protex brake pads are engineered to withstand the toughest situations and provide longer-lasting performance.

It should be emphasised that the wear rate of a pad is not constant, but is impacted by:

- Pad composition
- Optimal pad operating temperature
- Driving style
- Road conditions
- Vehicle weight

The life of a brake pad can vary anywhere from 30,000km to 70,000km on average. However, lower, or greater service intervals can result.

The materials used in a brake pad can have a major impact on the life and performance of the pad.

A semi-metallic brake pad will have a distinctly different composition from a ceramic brake pad, which will influence the wear rates differently.

A standard 'street pad' can have a low wear rate at low temperatures (<150°C), and a much higher rate at high temperatures (>300°C).

Meanwhile, performance pads are designed to have optimal wear rates at high temperatures (up to 600°C) and higher wear rates at lower temperatures.

Ultra range

Protex Ultra, Ultra Performance, and Ultra 4WD series brake pads are manufactured from the highest quality materials, and the latest technology using ceramic materials to ensure optimal vehicle stopping performance.

Protex pads offer premium performance, from stop-start movements through city streets to hilly countryside terrain.

Protex Ultra Series brake pads are designed to be used immediately out of the box, with no bedding in time required, creating a quick and hassle-free installation.

Designed with shims, chamfers, and slots to mitigate noise and vibration, they provide a comfortable and quiet braking experience.

Protex brake pads also contain minimal to zero copper in their friction formulation, reducing environmental impact without compromising performance to keep in line with global industry standards.

Regular checking and maintenance of brake pads are essential to ensure vehicle performance and driver safety.

If your brake pads are worn out, it is important to replace them immediately and replace them with quality Protex braking components.

Protex brings you a specialist range of high-performance Brake parts, backed by over 20 years in the industry. Using their industry knowledge and experience, Protex designed top-quality products to fit more than 95 per cent of Australia's cars. Our brakes are rigorously tested for optimum performance, the quality you can trust, and Australian conditions.

Plus, you'll benefit from our dedicated technical support, in-depth product knowledge, and a full nationwide guarantee. ACM

To find out more about Protex's range, including pads and hydraulics and many more Protex products that offer full braking solutions visit protexperts.com.au

ULTRA 4WD BRAKE PADS
protex
ULTRA CERAMIC BRAKE PADS
protex
ULTRA CERAMIC PLUS BRAKE PADS
protex

For more than two decades, Protex has been developing some of the best performing brake parts in the Australian auto landscape.

Images: Specialist Wholesalers

NOW AVAILABLE!

Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Safety Trolley

The trolley contains the basic safety equipment and signage requirements of AS 5732:2022 "Electric Vehicle Operations Maintenance and Repair." Designed to be portable with locking wheels the trolley can be moved to any bay the EV or Hybrid vehicle is being worked on. The technician's personal protective equipment, emergency equipment and tooling will always be near the potential risk area.

Part No. EVSTROLLEY

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TENSIONER AND IDLER BEARING
TIMINGBELT-KIT
PK-BELT

Image: GMB

Tried and tested; GMB Timing Belt Kits are as reliable as they come.

Gearing up

GMB Timing Belt Kits

The GMB Timing Belt Kit consists of a timing belt and tensioner & idler bearings.

The tensioner & idler bearings used in our GMB Timing Belt Kit have met rigorous requirements from car manufactures, like Hyundai Motors, Kia Motors, Volkswagen, and so on, for many years.

Why GMB Timing Belt Kits?

Not all timing belt kits are the same. Here's what makes GMB's kits stand out.

With over 75 years in business, GMB is the premium bearing manufacturer to the OE and aftermarket automotive industries.

At the heart of every GMB Tensioner and Idler lies a GMB Bearing.

GMB performs quality assurance through rigorous industry-leading testing and control methods based on extensive research and proven proprietary processes. The parts GMB manufactures are all 100 per cent factory tested to guarantee the perfect fit, form, and function.

GMB kits include the Timing Belt Tensioner & Idler Bearings, Timing Components, Timing Belts, Engine Seals, and Hardware necessary for installation on a specific vehicle.

Direct OE Replacement Tensioner, Idler, & Timing Components: precision-built to meet or exceed original equipment specifications and are quality assured through ISO 9002 programs.

Direct OE Replacement Timing Belts and Seals: are sourced directly from the OE manufacturer.

Educate your customers about preventative maintenance:

1. Preventative maintenance is the key to maximising the performance and durability of any water pump. Here's a list of maintenance tips to share with your customers:
2. Timing belts typically need to be replaced between 60,000 and 90,000 miles. Check the owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Replacing a timing belt or water pump for preventive reasons typically costs $500 to $900. More than half of the timing belt replacement cost can be attributed to labor cost. By replacing all timing components (belt, water pump, and other pulleys) at one time, money will be saved on labour.
4. A new timing belt's life is negatively impacted when it's used in conjunction with water pumps and other bearings that are worn. Replacing all components of the timing system at once ensures the maximum timing belt life. ACM

Head to GMB-oceania.com for more information

Timed in

BW warranty and quality assurance: Confidence you can trust

BW
MOVE CONFIDENTLY
SCHAEFFLER
INA
Belt Drive Components
NSK
NSK
JTEKT
DAYCO

BW Timing Belt Kits feature a handful of renowned brands.

Image: Specialist Wholesalers

At BW, quality isn't just a promise - it's the foundation of everything it does. From bearings to driveline components, each product is meticulously engineered for precision, rigorously tested, and built to meet or exceed OEM standards. Designed for a direct fit, BW parts deliver reliable performance, ensuring durability and longevity across a wide range of automotive applications.

Uncompromising quality assurance

BW's commitment to quality begins at the design phase and extends through production, with stringent quality control checks at every stage. This rigorous process ensures that every BW product performs flawlessly, even under the harshest conditions. Whether you're navigating city streets or off-road terrain, BW parts provide the reliability you need to keep your vehicle running safely and efficiently.

Comprehensive warranty coverage

BW stands behind the performance of its products with robust warranty coverage, reflecting BW's confidence in their quality and durability. With BW, you gain peace of mind knowing that your investment is protected.

BW products are covered by the following warranty periods:

Choose BW for trusted performance, exceptional quality, and a warranty that keeps you covered. Experience the difference in every drive.

The right range

BW delivers a comprehensive selection of bearings and driveline solutions, expertly tailored to meet the diverse demands of the Australian and New Zealand markets.

With one of the most extensive ranges of bearings, hubs, and driveline products available, BW stays ahead of the curve - constantly evolving to match the ever-changing needs of the automotive industry.

The category specialists

At BW, expertise runs deep. Its team of specialists brings years of industry knowledge and long-standing partnerships with leading global suppliers, ensuring customers receive the right advice and solutions every time.

Built on the strong foundation of Bearing Wholesalers, BW combines decades of experience with forward-thinking innovation. Its dedicated team, alongside its trusted supplier network, ensures BW remains the authority in bearings and driveline solutions.

Trusted quality

BW products are precision-engineered for a direct fit and uncompromising performance - meeting or exceeding OE and aftermarket standards.

Quality is at the core of everything BW does. Its team meticulously sources and selects products from a vast global supplier network, spanning both OE and aftermarket solutions. BW's kitted products, featuring individually curated components, provide customers with dependable, high-performance solutions they can trust. ACM

For more information, check out bwproducts.com.au

Image: Supplied by ACM Parts

ACM Parts has been an established recycled parts company for decades; this relationship with Bendix represents a major step in its ACM Parts Aftermarket offering.

Pump up the brakes

Big-time brakes come to ACM Parts Aftermarket

ACM Parts is taking its Aftermarket catalogue to the next level with the addition of Bendix brakes to its offerings.

ACM Parts has established itself in Australia as a major supplier of Reclaimed Parts, but Sales General Manager Glenn Baxter said this latest development added an entirely new dimension.

"It's a natural progression from offering the best in recycled parts to also be offering the best in aftermarket," he said.

Best in the business

Bendix has established itself as a staple Australian braking brand for decades.

Glenn said it was the obvious choice for ACM Parts – which also has a longstanding history – to work with the likes of Bendix.

"The reason why we're going with Bendix is because it's a known Australian brand with a great depth of range," he added.

"It's been well respected for many years and the typical mechanic knows them well.

"ACM aligning with Bendix – it's two historic brands when it's all said and done.

"We've been servicing the mechanical market for a long time, we see this as a great addition."

The move represents a major chapter for ACM Parts with Bendix being the first major brand to be offered at ACM Parts facilities across the country.

"What we wanted to do was align ACM Parts with a strong brand like Bendix going forward," Glenn said.

"Not just in terms of normal brakes, but also in the service parts business we need to go into from that point onwards.

"Even though we've been working in Reclaimed Parts for many years, this is the first foray into mechanical aftermarket products we've ever had."

Where and when you need it

With ACM Parts' vast network of distribution centres, Bendix brakes are available for next-day or even same-day delivering depending on when the order is placed.

"We are stocking them at all warehouses across the country," Glenn said.

"All of those sites will have Bendix products available and shipping on our own transport into the greater surrounds of those capital cities but also into regional areas as well." ACM

Learn more about ACM Parts Aftermarket and other ACM Parts ranges at acmautoparts.com.au

BYD's Australian sales are up almost 100 per cent in 2025 so far, mainly thanks to the demand and success of its Shark 6 plug-in hybrid ute. BYD outsold Volkswagen in the first quarter of this year. Image: Thomas Wielicki. Background image: photoraidz/stock.adobe.com

Brave New World

There's been a huge influx of new car brands in Australia, mainly from China. Can they all possibly survive, and what will it mean for the mechanics working on them?

WORDS: **IAIN CURRY**

There's never been a time like it. New car brands are landing on Australian shores at a furious pace, most of them coming from China. It's a huge shake up to our market, affecting car buyers, car owners, dealer franchises, service departments, parts suppliers and, of course, the mechanics working on the vehicles.

The list of newbies is overwhelming, and many are brands most of us have never heard of before. Over the past 18 months, brands entering our market – or just about to – include Deepal, Denza, GAC Aion, IM Motors, JAC, Leapmotor, Skywell, XPeng and Zeekr. Then there's brands we've had some exposure to before – Chery, Foton and Geely – while old familiars Smart and Cadillac have also made an Aussie comeback.

Complicating matters further, Chinese brands like to have sub-brands rather than all under a single badge. Chery, for instance, now has its semi-premium Jaecoo and sportier Omoda as standalones, and we're told they'll have "30 to 40" Jaecoo/Omoda dealerships separate from Chery's.

Uphill battle

Many industry experts agree it's too many new brands, too soon. Establishing a marque in Australia is no easy thing, and the success of Tesla and BYD have been the anomalies this past decade. Failure is the more common route.

The Chinese tactic is to undercut rivals while offering solid kit and warranties. The Chery Tiggo 4 Pro is Australia's cheapest SUV at $23,990 drive-away. Image: Chery Australia

In my 25 years as a motoring writer, I've seen countless brands come and go. Hummer, Alpine and Chery managed three years, Rover four, Proton and Infiniti seven, Dodge ten, and Smart hung on for 12. Opel, rather amusingly, lasted less than a year.

Even if these brands offer long warranties, when they exit Australia it's damaging to owners. Our consumer laws mean the departed brand must honour warranties and cover spare parts for a certain number of years (there's no official number), but will they really be as helpful and customer focused knowing they have no future in the country?

And when they go, there's a fire sale of remaining new car stock, so current owners suffer a huge hit to resale values.

But there are positives to this new wave of entrants, not least for those working in the industry. General Manager of the Sunshine Coast's Pacific Motor Group, Alister Eiseman, has recently opened Maroochydore's new Geely showroom, the Chinese brand joining the group's longer established brands like Ford, Kia, Jaguar and Land Rover.

I asked Mr Eiseman what the new Geely brand and the shift to electrification meant for his technicians, and the challenges it brings. Geely, after all, has entered Australia with a single model, the full electric EX5.

"Manufacturers are providing EV-specific training, creating exciting new development opportunities for technicians and sales teams," he said. "EVs present a rapidly evolving sector requiring continuous learning, and we're proud to be upskilling our workforce in this space. Brands like Geely are setting a new benchmark by integrating comprehensive training programs from day one, including multi-day sessions with vehicles and direct factory insights."

Plugging in, or not

If you're the sort of technician always striving to learn new things and embrace electrification specifically, these new brands offer substantial opportunities. And as Mr Eiseman acknowledges: "The automotive sector continues to face significant workforce shortages," so the chance to find a role with increased responsibility via a new brand opens up.

But the increase in hybrid, plug-in hybrid and full battery electric technologies – and the upskilling required to work on them – isn't desirable to all, not least some industry veterans. Basically, you lot who've worked on combustion cars your whole career and aren't enamoured with all this new electrification stuff and the influx of new Chinese brands with batteries at their core. I get it. A thumping V8 can make work a lot more fun than working with high voltage.

"The pace of change and continuous learning required, particularly around new technologies, can be demanding, especially for long-serving industry professionals," said Mr Eiseman.

This is a genuine concern. And it can be overwhelming with new models arriving at a staggering rate, and everyone must be quickly across them. That means the salespeople trying to explain the tech, features and powertrains in the new cars to customers, and those in the service department quickly getting their heads around their complex workings.

And, with so many of these new vehicles being EV-only, just how motivated will skilled mechanics be when there's very little mechanical in these cars to work on?

Don't be surprised if Zeekr makes a big push considering the success other big-name Chinese brands have had of late. Image: Zeekr Australia

China is garnering major interest from international markets looking for new alternatives to more traditional – and more expensive – manufacturers. Images: Zeekr

Blink twice, and you might think this is a Range Rover. But in fact it's the Jaecoo J7 SUV. Image: Jaecoo

An electrical engineering degree feels more relevant when working on such cars rather than a mechanic's qualification.

Building trust

Another concern stems from being employed by a box fresh brand. Some of these new players will of course thrive and survive, but there's an inevitability some will fall. That means job insecurity at best, and job loss at worst. No matter how lofty a new brand's goals, you'd fancy your long-term chances are better at a Toyota dealership.

Launching a new and obscure EV-only or EV-heavy brand doesn't look ideal timing right now. The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) chief executive Tony Weber said in April: "While the supply of EVs is increasing (in Australia), the demand for EVs is weak. The early adopters have acted but the rest of the vehicle-buying public has not followed. This is consistent with a number of other advanced markets around the world."

One thing that can't be ignored is the increasing global penetration of Chinese car brands and Chinese-made vehicles. EVs are a key battleground in the country's apparent ambitions for global automotive supremacy. In 2023, they produced over 30 million cars – that's more than the US, Japan, South Korea and Germany combined. Much of that growth has come from China selling cars to Russia (over one million in 2024), when every other car maker withdrew over its invasion of Ukraine.

Australia has proved highly receptive to Chinese brands, helped by a trade agreement and therefore rock-bottom prices. Even if Aussie buyers would prefer to shop for legacy brands such as Toyota, Ford or Mazda, in these cost-of-living times, cheap cars have arrived at just the right time.

Ready to play

This year so far, Chery – which only returned to Australia in 2023 – is outselling Honda, BMW and Suzuki. Most of that is due to the super-cheap Tiggo 4 Pro at $23,990 – small SUV rivals are typically thousands of dollars more.

Helping the Chinese cars' cause are high specification and generous warranties. And it's worked. In 2024, Chinese-owned MG was Australia's seventh biggest-selling brand, while GWM was tenth. BYD and Chery saw huge growth last year too, and both are targeting a top ten place.

We're soon going to have 80 unique brands selling cars in our relatively small market. Which of the new players survive remains to be seen, but you sense big investment with minimal return won't be tolerated for long. And the increased competition – even if it's short term – will likely see long-established brands fail in Australia as already sliding sales drop further, denting whatever small profits they were making.

Citroen has already recently failed here, and others will likely join it in the casualty department. It makes for uncertain times for all in the industry, not least the mechanics working on the cars. There's undoubtedly upskilling and career-advancing potential for some, but it's inevitable it'll be a rockier road for others. **ACM**

Beijing-based Foton Motor is taking a big swing at the ute market in Australia with the Tunland, which has a 2.0L turbo-diesel engine with a 48V hybrid system. Image: Foton Motor

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